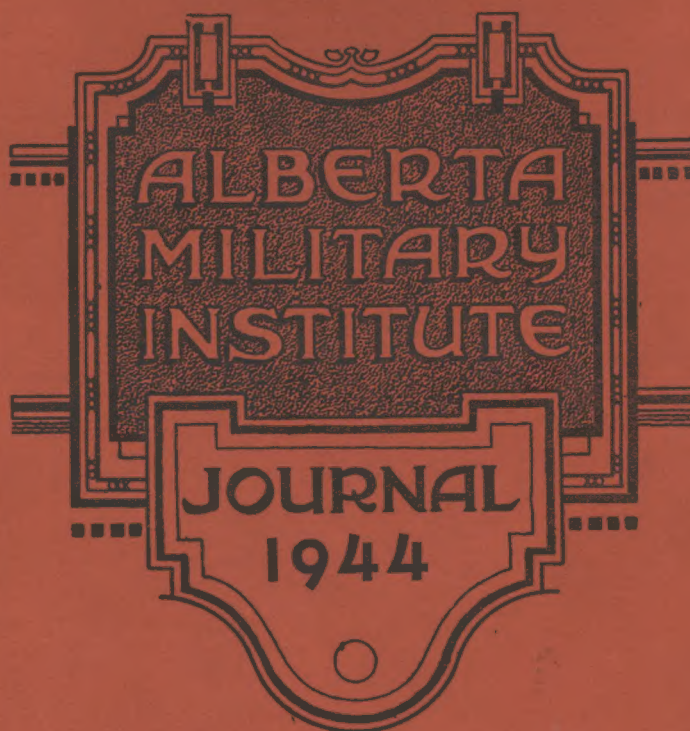


*Geo. J. Snider*



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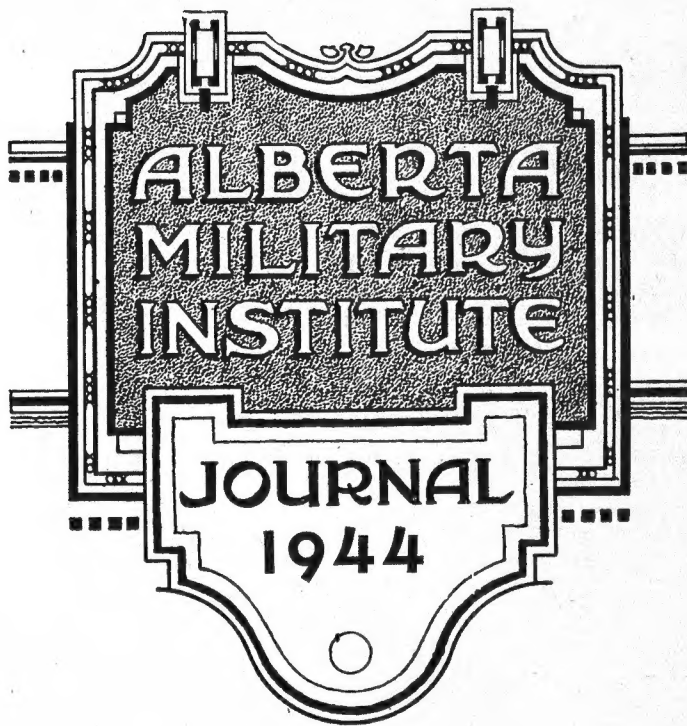
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## In Memoriam



Major A. A. BALLACHEY (killed in action).

Capt. C. BOUCK.

Hon. Capt. A. BRIGHT.

Lieut. T. W. COLLINGE.

Capt. A. H. FERGUSON.

Major-Gen. W. A. GRIESBACH, C.B., C.M.G.,  
D.S.O.

Hon. Lt.-Col. G. W. KERBY, V.D.

Capt. A. H. MACLAREN.

Major-Gen. L. F. PAGE, D.S.O.

Hon. Major. N. M. PLUMMER.

# 1944 Annual Journal

of

## The Alberta Military Institute

(Incorporated)

CAPT. R. B. WILSON, Editor.

LIEUT. M. H. ROBINSON, Advertising Manager.

MAJOR A. J. DAVIS, E.D., Business Manager.

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Twenty-fifth Year.

December, 1944.

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The Alberta Military Institute does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by speakers and reported herein, and no official opinions are given.

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# The Alberta Military Institute

(Incorporated 1920)

## CALGARY

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### PATRONS

His Excellency the Rt Hon. the Earl of Athlone, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.,  
D.C.L., LL.D., A.D.C., Governor-General of Canada.

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Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

Colonel G. E. Sanders, C.M.C., D.S.O.

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Col. H. C. A. Hervey, V.D.

Lt.-Col. E. R. Selby, D.S.O., V.D.

Major N. A. Campbell.

Capt. D. C. Sinclair

---

## OFFICERS FOR 1945

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Capt. R. C. Carlile.

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Capt. D. C. Sinclair.

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Lt.-Col. Harold E. Wright.

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Major L. G. McCarthy.

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Major H. W. Francis.

Major J. M. Adams.

Major M. A. Elliesen, M.C.

Capt. A. J. Toole, M.C.

Sub-Lieut. Frank Tempest.

### HONORARY CHAPLAIN

Major W. H. Morgan

### LIBRARIAN

Lieut. M. H. Robinson.

## President's Annual Address [1944]

(Delivered by CAPT. R. C. CARLILE for the late President, LIEUT T. W. COLLINGE.)

ON the 10th of October our President, Lieut. T. W. Collinge, died suddenly at a meeting of the members of the Institute just when he had finished introducing the speaker of the evening, Col. P. Griffin, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Lord Strathcona's Horse (R.C.) in Italy.

The year 1944 was a successful one for the Institute and the credit was due to the energy and discrimination of Lieut. Collinge and his Directors in procuring excellent speakers and for arranging a really good gathering for the annual Vimy dinner. Major-General George R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. in charge, Pacific Command, one of the founders of the Institute, was the guest speaker and gave us one of the best addresses we have ever had. He recalled Vimy in 1917 and spoke of the last time he had seen the Vimy Memorial in 1940. He pleaded with members of the Institute to urge more manpower to support Canada's armies overseas. Before dinner Major-General Pearkes inspected the A.M.I. Cadets: he was accompanied by the D.O.C., M.D. 13, Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C., and Major-General H. N. Ganong, C.B.E., V.D.

### Cadets Enjoy Banner Year

The A.M.I. Cadets had for some time past been the especial interest of Lieut. Collinge, and during his term of office as President their morale and enthusiasm grew steadily as the result of improvements put into effect. S/M. Theriault did a great deal towards getting these good results. When Lieut. Collinge became President, he appointed Major L. H. Chapman as chairman of the Cadet Committee, and the nominal roll has increased to around 150; the enthusiasm has kept up with the numbers. They now use the Cadet quarters at Willingdon Hall which was provided through the enterprise of Lt.-Col. D. A. Ross. Our Cadets parade every Friday night at 7.30, and Major Chapman would appreciate a visit from any members. It makes the boys more keen to carry out their training when members of the Institute come down to see them. I cannot speak too highly of the work being done by Major Chapman; his report will be included in the annual Journal.

Our Junior Cadets are much indebted to the kindness and work of Mr. Wright, of Irricana, in regard to the summer camp at Sylvan Lake.

On February 23, Major-General W. W. Foster, C.M.G., D.S.O., special commissioner for defence projects in Northwest Canada, urged Canadians to understand other nations and thus be prepared to take their part in international affairs after the war. He showed a film illustrating the strategic position of the Canadian Northwest.

On May 4th, Lt.-Col. W. W. Henderson, who was overseas with the 1st Batt. Calgary Highlanders, depicted England in 1940 after Dunkerque, and described the valuable service rendered by the Canadian troops in England after the evacuation.

## THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE ANNUAL JOURNAL

### Preparations for Invasion

Another officer, returned from overseas, addressed the Institute on June 2nd. Major J. H. Neeland was with the 3rd Brigade R.C.A. He gave us a picture of English readiness for invasion by the Nazis and to use the "scorched earth" policy if necessary.

Lt.-Col. Harold E. Wright commanded an army field regiment of artillery under the direct command of 8th Army H.Q. On September 2nd, in his address to us, he described the part played by the Canadian artillery in the battle around Cassino.

On November 3rd, Brigadier R. Wyman, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., came down from Edmonton to give us a thrilling narrative of the advance of his armoured brigade under the orders of General Keller on the road south of Caen. This very hazardous operation was completely successful and was the prelude to closing the Falaise gap. At the height of his success, Brigadier Wyman was wounded and finally had to hand over his command. It was at the special request of Field Marshal Montgomery that Brigadier Wyman was put in command of the Canadian armour on D-Day.

On November 10th, Major F. P. Ashton, of the Royal Artillery, and one of Churchill's triphibious fighters, told us of his fifth D-Day landing—this time attached to the Americans in Normandy. He had seen service with Anderson's 1st Army and spent six months on a destroyer. He was brought back from Burma to help in planning D-Day in Normandy. Experience had bred in him a great attachment to the American fighting man.

### "They're All the Same"

On December 18th we had a hot evening with Gilbert Harding, of the B.B.C., showing the degradation of the Nazi mind and the impossibility for a long time of making any distinction between Nazis and the ordinary run of Hun. Questions were thrown at him from all sides and he revelled in answering them.

In January we had a Ladies' Night to hear Mr. Sidney R. Vallance describe scenic walks in the Rocky Mountains illustrated by the most remarkable and beautiful set of screen pictures in colour. After the

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thrilling stories of real war by men straight from the fronts, it was a most restful and delightful change to have opened up to us beauty and animal life at our very doors.

On January 25th, F/Lt. A. R. Smith, D.F.C., with kind permission from the O.C. of No. 2 Command, spoke to the Institute about bombing and fighter operations. He had just returned from bombing operations which earlier had included co-operation with the Maquis in France. This was probably the first time we had been addressed by a man born and brought up in Calgary.

### **Thanks to the Directors**

My thanks and appreciation go to the Directors and to the Secretary, Major A. J. Davis, for enabling me to take up and carry through the excellent programme laid out by our President, Lieut. Collinge, before he died. The usual New Year 1945 Reception was held jointly by the Institute and the Garrison Officers' Mess. Throughout the year the officers and staff of the Garrison Officers' Mess have co-operated wholeheartedly with us and contributed largely to the smoothness and enjoyment of our meetings. The New Year reception was not so well attended as usual. Next year I hope members will all come and bring their friends. It has become one of the leading functions in Calgary for giving us an opportunity to meet one another and our friends who are not members.

Several faces we loved to see were not there any more. The following deaths occurred during the year:

Hon. Lt.-Col. Dr. G. W. Kerby.  
Capt. A. H. Ferguson.  
Hon. Major Rev. Norman Plummer.  
Lieut. Lawrence Sherman (killed in action).  
Major Alec Ballachy (killed in action).  
Major-General Lionel F. Page, D.S.O.  
Hon. Capt. Rev. A. Bright.  
Capt. A. H. Maclaren.  
Capt. Charles Bouck.  
Lieut. T. W. Collinge.  
Capt. Bill White (killed in action).  
Major-General W. A. Griesbach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., K.C.

### **Senior Officer Promotions**

Two senior officer promotions were made in September—Brigadier H. A. Young became Major-General on appointment as Q.M.G., and Brigadier D. J. MacDonald became Inspector General for Central Canada with the rank of Major-General. On the death of Lieut. Collinge, I assumed the duties of President and your Directors appointed Lt.-Col. E. H. Parsons acting Vice-President for the balance of the year. Many thanks to Capt. Hinton for always being at meetings to provide the music.

Some action to bring to our membership more officers of His Majesty's forces is necessary if the Institute is to be in a position to be of service to officers fighting in this war, when they become demobilized.

## THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE ANNUAL JOURNAL

Your Directors have given considerable thought to getting officers of the navy and airforce to join so that the Institute shall not consist merely of army men. The outgoing Directorate recommend therefore that every effort should be made to get into our membership all Southern Alberta residents who are now officers in the navy, army and airforce.

### For Officers of Three Services

A letter signed by the President should be sent to every officer of all three services on demobilization inviting them to join the Institute. All present members should use their personal contacts to get new members. It is recommended by the old Executive: (1) That all officers of His Majesty's forces returning from overseas be given free membership for the current year if their applications for membership be approved in the usual manner; (2) That the Nominating Committee for next year's slate of officers include representatives from the navy, army and airforce; (3) That the stationery should include the words Navy, Army and Airforce under the title name of Alberta Military Institute.

As there were no nominations from the members, the slate provided by the Nomination Committee will be placed before you for your approval. Your active support of them will help their work, and suggestions from you will always be welcome.

The Directors are always anxious to get good speakers to address us. We need men (1) of importance, or (2) with an interesting subject, or (3) who are eloquent. Please phone or write suggestions to the Secretary or to myself.

## From 22's to Machine Guns

THE confidence and skill, acquired yesterday at the target, makes the sharpshooter of today. That is why so many Canadians in our fighting forces are "crack" shots. Many of them are the proud owners of the bronze, silver and gold pins, won in their early days with "Dominion" Marksmen. Today, quite a number of those boyhood emblems of proficiency are being replaced by Military decorations.

As in peace time "Dominion" Ammunition contributed to our shooting skill, so in war-time "Dominion" Ammunition is still doing its part. Today, our engineers,

scientists and workers are devoting every ounce of energy and ability in supplying our fighting forces with war material for every fighting front, for every climate, that our Canadian ways and customs—our Canadian freedom may be preserved.

So, while today our sportsmen friends may not be able to get "Dominion" Ammunition; when victory is won, "Dominion" will once more be ready to serve Canadian hunters and sportsmen with ammunition of the highest quality.



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## Report of the Auditor

*By Lieut. F. J. Butler*

Sir:

I HAVE completed the audit of the books and records of the Alberta Military Institute for the year ended 31st December, 1944, and report as follows:

**Bank Balances**—Certificates have been received from the Bank of Montreal confirming the Balances standing to the credit of the Current Account and Savings Account at that Bank.

**Investments**—Bonds and Savings Certificates having a market value as at 31st December, 1944, of \$7,567.31, were inspected by me and found in order. These securities are kept in a Safe Deposit Box in the Bank of Montreal.

**Library**—The cost of these assets stand on the books at the same figure as that of last year.

**Office Equipment, Pictures, etc.**—No alteration has been made in the cost of these assets from the amount appearing in last year's Balance Sheet.

**Surplus Account**—The balance standing to the credit of this account in the 1943 Statement was \$7,534.44. This has now been increased to \$8,116.33, owing to an appreciation of the market value of the securities, and the profit of \$130.58 as disclosed by the Revenue Statement.

All receipts and cash disbursements made were properly vouched by me.

The books and records were found to be in very good order.

Subject to the above remarks I certify that in my opinion the attached Balance Sheet and Revenue Accounts dated 31st December, 1944, are correct and in accordance with the explanations and information given to me and to the books of the Institute.

January 23rd, 1945.

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## The Treasurer's Report

*By Major L. G. McCarthy*

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

A copy of the Financial Statement of the Alberta Military Institute for the fiscal period ended December 31st, 1944, was mailed to each of the members. There are a few extra copies here on the desk if any member forgot to bring his along.

### Government Grants

The Department of National Defence, General Services, made a grant of \$250.00 to the Institute in 1944, and also granted \$92.00 to the Cadet Corps of the Institute.

### The Alberta Military Institute Cadet Corps

The Institute made the usual grant of \$250.00 for use of the Cadets. It will be noted the Cadet Corps Committee used only \$97.26 of this amount. However, there was spent on the Cadets \$1,062.26, one of the largest amounts spent on the Cadets in any fiscal period. This was made possible through Government grants and reimbursements for uniforms.

### Accounts Receivable and Payable

There were no Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable as at December 31st, 1944. The amount of \$214.00, proportion of dues for 1943, mentioned in my last report as likely to be paid to the Garrison Officers' Mess, was paid in 1944. The actual amount accruing to the Mess in 1944 was \$413.00 which, with the addition of \$214.00, equals \$627.00 as shown in the Revenue Statement.

### Investment Securities

The investment securities of the Institute as at December 31st, 1944, were as follows:

|                           | Par Value  | Cost       | Market Value<br>Dec 31st, 1944 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Dominion of Canada        |            |            |                                |
| War Savings Certificates  | \$ 600.00  | \$ 480.00  | No market                      |
| Dominion of Canada Bonds  | 3,100.00   | 3,100.00   | \$3,213.81                     |
| Province of Alberta Bonds | 4,100.00   | 3,583.50   | 3,873.50                       |
|                           | <hr/>      | <hr/>      | <hr/>                          |
|                           | \$7,800.00 | \$7,163.50 | \$7,087.31                     |

The market value of bonds held by the Institute increased during the fiscal period by \$451.31. This amount has been added to Surplus Account.

During the fiscal period another \$400.00 was invested in Victory Bonds.

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## THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE ANNUAL JOURNAL

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### Dues

Membership dues collected for the year amounted to \$1,147.50, an increase of \$11.00 over the \$1,136.00 collected in 1943. There was also collected \$25.00 dues paid in advance for 1945.

### Profit and Loss and Surplus

The Profit and Loss Account shows a profit of \$130.58, an increase of \$28.98 over the period ending December 31st, 1943.

Surplus shows as \$8,116.33, an increase of \$581.89 over that of 1943, which was \$7,534.44.

### Membership

The membership as at December 31st, 1944, was as follows:

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Resident Members   | 246   |
| Privileged Members | 131   |
|                    | <hr/> |
| Total              | 377   |
|                    | <hr/> |

A number have not paid dues up to date, but no doubt these will be collected within the next couple of months.

When war broke out in 1939 those interested in the welfare of this Institute realized there would be a sudden drop in membership, but were of the opinion if only a nucleus membership remained and the assets were kept intact the Institute would be in a strong position to move forward at the cessation of hostilities.

It is gratifying to note that during the past five years the membership has kept up far beyond expectations and assets have continued to increase.

For the fiscal period ending December 31st, 1939, membership was 482, and Surplus Account \$6,560.09.

For the fiscal year ending December 31st, 1944, membership was 377, and Surplus Account \$8,116.33.

Many officers of the forces are now returning to civil life and the year 1945 should mark the beginning of that forward movement of the Institute visualized back in the fall and winter of 1939.

It is suggested members take every opportunity to interest fellow officers in the Institute and its objectives.

January 24th, 1945.

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# THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE

## THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE ANNUAL JOURNAL

### BALANCE SHEET - 31st DECEMBER, 1944

| ASSETS                                 |                   | LIABILITIES                        |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash—                                  |                   | Prepaid Dues                       | \$ 25.00          |
| Bank Balance—Current Account           | \$ 199.45         | Suspense Account                   | 1.00              |
| Bank Balance—Savings Account           | 25.39             | Surplus Account as at Jan. 1, 1944 | \$7,534.44        |
| Investments—                           |                   | Add: Adjustment of Investments to  |                   |
| Bonds and Savings Certificates         |                   | market value as at Dec. 31, 1944   | 451.31            |
| (at Market Value Dec. 31, 1944)        | 7,567.31          |                                    | <u>\$7,985.75</u> |
| Par Value \$7,800.00. Cost \$7,163.50. |                   | Add: Profit for Year as per        |                   |
| Library                                | 306.18            | Revenue Statement                  | 130.58            |
| Office Equipment, Pictures, etc.       | 43.50             |                                    | <u>8,116.33</u>   |
|                                        | <u>\$8,142.33</u> |                                    | <u>\$8,142.33</u> |

Audited and found correct:

F. J. BUTLER, Auditor.  
Calgary, Alberta, January 16th, 1945.

Certified Correct:

L. G. MCCARTHY, Major, Treasurer.

# THE ALBERTA MILITARY INSTITUTE ANNUAL JOURNAL

## REVENUE STATEMENT

For Year Ended 31st December, 1944

### RECEIPTS

|                                         |           |            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Membership Dues                         |           | \$1,147.50 |
| Grant—General Services, Ottawa          |           | 250.00     |
| Interest                                |           | 203.95     |
| A.M.I. Journal—Receipts for Advertising | \$ 542.80 |            |
| Less: Cost of Publishing                | 481.53    |            |
|                                         |           | 61.27      |
|                                         |           | \$1,662.72 |

### DISBURSEMENTS

|                                                   |           |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Garrison Officers' Mess C.A.—                     |           |            |
| Proportion of Current Membership Dues             | \$ 627.00 |            |
| Lectures, etc.—                                   |           |            |
| Refreshments for meetings                         | \$ 76.00  |            |
| Expenses                                          | 25.00     |            |
|                                                   |           | 101.00     |
| Vimy Dinner Expense                               | \$ 422.38 |            |
| Less: Receipts                                    | 249.00    |            |
|                                                   |           | 173.38     |
| New Year's Reception, 1944                        |           | 59.50      |
| A.M.I. Cadet Corps—                               |           |            |
| 1944 Camp Expense                                 | \$ 276.16 |            |
| Accident Policy                                   | 10.00     |            |
| Miscellaneous                                     | 251.55    |            |
| Uniforms                                          | 524.35    |            |
|                                                   |           | \$1,062.06 |
| Less: Reimbursement of                            |           |            |
| Expense of Uniforms                               | \$872.80  |            |
| Grant for Bugle Band                              | 54.00     |            |
| Grant for Cadet Instructor                        | 38.00     |            |
|                                                   |           | 964.80     |
|                                                   |           | 97.26      |
| General Expense—                                  |           |            |
| Honorariums:                                      |           |            |
| Secretary—Clerical Help                           | \$ 120.00 |            |
| Treasurer—Clerical Help                           | 130.00    |            |
|                                                   |           | 250.00     |
| Exchange—Cheques                                  |           | .60        |
| Multigraphing                                     |           | 72.00      |
| Printing and Stationery                           |           | 37.69      |
| Postage and Excise                                |           | 36.00      |
| Fire Insurance Premium                            |           | 5.80       |
| Safety Deposit Box                                |           | 5.00       |
| Wreaths                                           |           | 21.50      |
| Audit                                             |           | 30.00      |
| Miscellaneous                                     |           | 15.41      |
|                                                   |           | \$1,532.14 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE FOR YEAR 1944                       |           | \$1,532.14 |
| BALANCE, Being Profit for Year to Surplus Account |           | 130.58     |
|                                                   |           | \$1,662.72 |
|                                                   |           | \$1,662.72 |

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## The Alberta Military Institute Library

*By Lieut. M. H. Robinson*

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

**I**N presenting this report, I can only repeat that, under the prevailing conditions, the majority of the members are unable to make full use of the library as a reading room or in the borrowing of books. However, when the war is over the library will once more come into its own.

I again suggest that in the replacing of books they be put back in their proper numerical order. One new book, "World in Trance", by Leopold Schwarzschild, is on order and will arrive shortly. Another, "The Letters of the Empress Frederick", by Sir Frederick Ponsonby, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., has been donated to the library and several others have been promised. With the return of members from service, I trust that one of them will take over the duties of librarian.

Lieuts. M. H. Staples and R. T. Baxter have again consented to serve with me as a Library Committee, and to them I extend my sincere thanks.

The Directors have suggested that one man who is available throughout the daytime be asked to take care of the loaning of books during that period. I feel sure the members will agree that it is a good suggestion.

I recommend that a sum of \$25.00 be authorized for use of the library during 1945.

### **A. E. YEATMAN** **MILITARY TAILOR**

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## Alberta Military Institute Cadets

*By Major L. H. Chapman*

**F**OLLOWING a winter of careful training at Willingdon Hall under Sergt.-Major Theriault the first public function the Cadets took part in was the Guard of Honour at the Palliser Hotel, April 9th, 1944, for the Vimy Dinner. Guard consisted of 34 Cadets and 2 officers, and following inspection by Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., the Guard was very favourably commented on, which was appreciated by the boys. The Guard then attended the Palace Theatre as guests of the manager.

May 4th—Theatre parade for all city Cadets at which 82 Cadets were present.

June 25th—Sunday. Field Day with Calgary Regiments on a scheme at Bragg Creek. Sixty Cadets present.

June 29th—Inspection by District Cadet Officer, Capt. Ritz-Bennett. Attended by many parents. Efficiency chevrons were presented. Retreat carried out with band and lowering of flag, a ceremony few of the boys had seen. Ninety Cadets present.

July 10th—Stampede Parade, which was very smart. A.M.I. Cadets led the parade with band of 23 and a platoon of 60 Cadets and 3 officers.

July 17th to 27th—Thirty-eight Senior Cadets attended Sarcee Camp with a band of twenty. Spent a good deal of time on ranges, field-craft, etc., and were inspected by Col. Grier and Col. Holloway, the former being the retiring Cadet officer for Canada and succeeded by Col. Holloway. Considerable time was spent in training the officers and senior N.C.O.'s as coaches, so they may be able to assist the juniors later in firing practice. While the camp routine and training was good, the A.M.I. Cadets suffered from the absence of a Cadet instructor of their own. This deficiency, it is hoped, will be remedied in the year 1945 now that two Cadet officers have been appointed to the unit.

July 29th to August 12th—With the Junior Cadet Camp at Sylvan Lake, for which from 70 applications 32 boys were selected as a charge to the A.M.I. Eight members of the band were requested by Mr. Wright, the owner of the camp, and went at his expense. This Junior Camp was unofficial, although all canvas and equipment was loaned by the Ordnance Department. The question of transportation proved to be a problem, but was got over when the D.O.C. kindly placed \$150.00 from Cadet funds at the disposal of the committee, and a permit being obtained to run a Greyhound bus both ways, which, owing to the heaviest storm of the year in that week-end, proved a real blessing, the bus getting through when many vehicles did not. The boys had good training under Sergt. Little and other instructors, and are already looking forward to this year.

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Total number of Cadets at this camp, 78. All rations supplied by Mr. Wright. Cost of maintenance paid by A.M.I. will be shown in the Treasurer's report.

August 28th—Central Cadet Committee authorized our strength increase up to 400 uniforms, 100 of which have since arrived, bringing our total uniforms to 225, along with 75 pairs of boots, for which a deposit of \$2.70 per pair is made by every Cadet and the sum of \$202.50 being handed over to the Secretary for this purpose.

October 13th—Eight Senior Cadets represented the A.M.I. and acted as wreath bearers at the funeral of our late President, Lieut. T. Collinge.

November 1st—Sgt.-Major (W.O. 1) L. Theriault was withdrawn from the company by the District Cadet Officer and the appointment of Lieuts. Steckle and French was made effective from that date.

November 30th—Party for all Cadets at the Palace Theatre. Ninety-eight Cadets with band attended.

December 1st—Was the official opening of Willingdon Hall by Brigadier F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C., D.O.C., M.D. 13. Guard of Honour of 26 Cadets and 1 officer from A.M.I. Cadets. All Cadet companies were represented. A.M.I. had 132 Cadets on parade. A good programme was arranged, composed of P.T. display with tumbling, a precision squad and pictures, which many parents enjoyed. The D.O.C. expressed the opinion he would like to see the hall not only used for Cadet work but later to develop into a clean club for boys who belonged to the Cadets.

December 22nd—Was the annual Christmas Party for the A.M.I. Cadets and was thoroughly enjoyed by 125 of the boys. Pop was donated by the Calgary Brewery and milk by the Union Dairy. The expense was confined to \$8.90 for cakes, etc. Sergt.-Major Theriault was presented with \$100.00 war bond as an honorarium from your Cadet Committee for his splendid work. A case of pipes was also presented by the Cadet Officer, Major Dingle, from the Cadet Company.

January 5th—Dance for all Cadets at Western Canada High School. The A.M.I. was represented by sixty dancers of all ages.

This report covers the social activities of the Cadets, to show all is not forming fours, but the training syllabus has moved side by side with these activities and the boys have learned to like their training.

A team practising for the Colonel Juill cup lost by five points to Crescent Heights High School, making nine possibles out of 10, last man dropping five points. Total of 495 to 500, which is good shooting.

An application has been sent N.D.H.G. for an Honour Roll, as we have many Cadets to enter on the roll, four of whom have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Of the five young officers who have run this company under Sergt.-Major Theriault and reach the age of 18 in April, two are going "Active" in June at the finish of Grade 12—three also went active last year—



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and the committee would recommend that a suitable memento be presented by this Institute in every case in recognition of their five years' service with our Cadet Corps.

Finally, let me thank the two members of my committee for their loyal support throughout a year in which I have enjoyed myself immensely watching these grand lads develop.

Insurance of uniforms against fire has been taken out by Central Committee. The same for band instruments to the amount of \$500.00. The premium, to be paid by the A.M.I., is \$5.00. Coverage is, wherever the instruments may be. I would recommend the usual grant of \$250.00 be made for the year 1944 and 1945.

Petty cash account remains at \$44.00 as at January 31st, 1945.

Total strength this date—156.

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## The Great Northwest

(Address delivered by MAJOR-GENERAL W. W. FOSTER, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., Special Commissioner for Northwest Defence Projects, at a meeting of the Alberta Military Institute, held in the Garrison Officers' Mess on Wednesday, February 23rd, 1944).

I AM very grateful that you have given me the opportunity to meet so many old friends who, with other members and guests, are assembled under the auspices of your Institute this evening.

You have asked me to talk about a subject which covers a tremendous amount of ground: the area included within the Northwest being approximately one million square miles, of which one-half is in Canada. It has a strategic significance, particularly the subject of our discussion tonight, which is of the highest order.

To assist in this discussion you will see in front of you two maps—the first, upon a scale of one inch to thirty-six miles, featuring the defence projects in which Canada and the United States jointly participate. The second, a polar gnomonic projection, which immediately presents a birdseye view of the geographic relationship between the North American continent and the continent of Asia. This map also indicates the value of the Northwest Corridor for military purposes, both in sending supplies to Russia and preparing for offensive, as well defensive, operations against Japan.



*Major-General Foster*

### **Four Point Value.**

One might describe the Northwest as having, strategically, at the present time, a four-point value; that of defence, offence, aid to Russia, and its post-war potential.

The United States portion of the Northwest was discovered by Russia in 1741 and bought by the United States in 1867, the year of Canada's birthday. The Canadian section contains northern British Columbia, the Yukon, and part of the Northwest Territories.

Its past history is very sketchy, as until recent years only the coast line was known to any extent; that being the portion originally explored by Russians and along which industries were later developed, the remainder consisting of a great silent waste, across which fur traders, miners, missionaries and Indians fought their way against tremendous

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hardships by back-pack, canoe or dog team. During a brief period the discovery of gold on the Yukon River, in 1895, created a rush northward to the Yukon, and in the year 1898 the Yukon alone was stated to contain over 30,000 white people, but as placer claims became exhausted, the Canadian Northwest sank back to comparative obscurity with a population not exceeding from three to four thousand.

### Great Distances Involved.

The tremendous distances involved can perhaps be appreciated when I point out that the distance from Calgary to Nome, the location of the last airport on the Northwest Staging Route, is longer than from Calgary to Montreal, and in regard to time of travel—that in 1898 a R.C.M.P. patrol took something over a year to get to Whitehorse from Edmonton, a distance which is now travelled in about six hours.

To really appreciate the connection between the Northwest and the war situation it is necessary to recall Germany's plan for world domination. That plan embraced possession of air and submarine bases for further aggression, and the attack upon Great Britain in August, 1940, frustrated by the magnificent effort on the part of a greatly outnumbered British air force, a contest that will be related in history as one of the greatest epics of warfare.

The corollary to this attack was the isolation of Great Britain by means of submarine warfare, a plan which nearly succeeded. The next step, which no doubt has been fully discussed in your Institute, was that of obtaining possession of the resources of Russia, either by alliance or defeat in the field; the plan involving either a full military alliance with Russia and utilizing Russia's supplies, personnel and other resources to further German ambition, or else an attack upon Russia before that country was, in German opinion, strong enough to successfully resist. However, the Russians were fully capable of appreciating that in the end a full military alliance with Germany would ultimately lead to the subjection of their own land and that it would be better to take the risk of being attacked.

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### **Germany's Super Plans.**

Having possessed the resources of Russia, Germany could visualize the conquest of the Balkans and, with the aid of Italy as a naval power, the conquest of the Mediterranean: in the words of a leading German geo-politician the Mediterranean to be converted into a great inland lake, giving access to Africa, whose resources would enrich the German nation. This statement appears to be at variance with that of the Italian partner who spoke of the Mediterranean as "Our Sea". However, they were in accord upon denying its use to the British. With the conquest of North Africa, in which Germany nearly succeeded, would naturally follow the control of the Suez Canal, and the destruction of British Near and Far East possessions.

Japan, an Axis partner, was also intent upon world domination. You will recall the Tanaka plan presented to the Emperor. This plan contained the successive steps to be taken by Japan in order to obtain its ultimate objective, of which immediate possession of China and the East Indies was the first step. Japan's preparations for war equalled, in intensity, those of Germany, and Japan carefully watched Germany's progress. As one after another the countries of Europe, who offered resistance, were conquered, and it was noted by Japan that all Europe was enslaved; Russia apparently mastered; the United States fleet involved in the battle of the Atlantic, and the British Empire, which for a time had stood alone in resisting German attacks, was staggering under heavy blows and apparently becoming isolated as the result of submarine activity; Japan appreciated that her own time for action had arrived and, on December 7th, 1941, launched its treacherous attack upon Pearl Harbour, which Roosevelt--like Churchill, a master of phrase--referred to as "The Day of Infamy".

### **Japan's Technique Similar to Germany's.**

The technique of Japan was very similar to that of Germany, both in long-range plans and their execution, the sudden assault of Japan being one of those lightning blows which used to be referred to as a "blitzkrieg". It will be recalled the initial attacks succeeded in crippling the United States fleet, destroyed British naval units and captured outpost bases of the United States and the British Empire. The further strategy embraced a succession of drives, which would seize resources and obtain bases both for further aggression and to secure an outpost line to guard against counter-attack. One of the many drives was southwest, which would complement German attacks through the Near East. Another Japanese drive, to which I draw particular attention, was north-east through the Aleutians to Alaska. This drive, if successful, giving control of the waters of the North Pacific and outflanking the North American Continent.

I am only attempting to give you a general outline, leaving you to fill in the details. In doing so, in the light of strategy aimed at world control, it is most interesting to note that Germany and Japan adhere to the original principles of war which are first recorded as being enunciated

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by a Chinese warrior-statesman 400 years before the birth of Christ, who described war as "attack based upon necessity, whose success depended upon ability to move swiftly; to strike where weak; and the art of deception". These principles are found in many Oriental textbooks, from one I quote:

**"Never let the enemy know what your resources may be. If you are strong, persuade him you are weak; where you are weak, make him think you are strong. Never convey information of value to the enemy".**

In these admonitions there are undoubtedly lessons that we might well observe. The Russians are particularly mindful of these principles and require co-operation from their allies in respect to secrecy regarding furnishing the movement of war materials.

Another great warrior, Temuin, commonly known as Genghis Kha Khan, although an illiterate man to the extent that he was unable to read, but a real commander in his ability to handle his soldiers and people, added to the original principles of war the idea of the fifth column, pointing out that in war the way must be prepared by creating dissention amongst the enemy, and exemplified this principle very successfully in his attack upon China, when his emissaries went ahead disguised as merchants and opened the gates of the Chinese wall.

### **Propaganda as a Weapon.**

Today we still have propaganda as one of the greatest of Germany's weapons. Through its use they divided those who they proposed to attack; dealt with them one by one, and so succeeded in the conquest of Europe. It is something to seriously consider that if, today, by emissaries still scattered throughout the world, discord can be created between the United States and our Empire; Russia and the United States; or Russia and ourselves; it would be of far greater value to Germany and Japan than any single victory in the field.

Even in our land we notice efforts to create unrest and dissatisfaction, and behind these efforts may be the promotion of emissaries such as Genghis Kha Kan employed so many years ago. It is diverting a

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little from the subject, Mr. President, but I think as soldiers we should always be conscious of what security requires and, particularly today, be extremely careful to offset the suggestion that the war is very nearly over, and in consequence the efforts of the Allies can be relaxed. That would be a very dangerous frame of mind, and one that might lead to the very condition which our enemies rely upon now that, for them, victory in the field is obviously out of the question.

I have spoken of the original principles of war. Whilst these are practically unchanged, in their application, science has placed at the disposal of armies in the field today, weapons of far greater power than were ever employed before, and it may be assumed before the present conflict is over others will be disclosed.

Of the new weapons—that one that is the most outstanding (the air arm) is also the one that has given the Northwest its strategic importance. The air arm alone, however, cannot exist without support in the shape of airfields, repair shops and supply of every possible character, as well as protection.

### **Northwest Staging Route.**

Looking at the map you will note the Northwest Staging Route with its main and subsidiary airfields, also the road serving these airfields, and at intervals along the road landing strips for use in contact flying. You will also see the Mackenzie River Route which at present terminates at Norman Wells, although surveys are being made with a view to extension beyond. These airfields are connected by a great network of telegraph and telephone systems, and supplemented by weather forecast and all other essential services.

The history of air activity in the Northwest, which enabled such rapid provision to be made for the emergency of war, is extremely interesting. Prior to September of 1938 intrepid airmen, commonly known as "bush pilots", many of them veterans of the last war, had pioneered transportation usually with ski or float-equipped planes, and based upon their reports and other investigations Canada had commenced a chain of airfields running northward from Edmonton to Alaska. With the declaration of war Canada and the United States jointly approached the problem of the defence of the North American Continent; a Joint Defence Board was created, and one of its earliest decisions was that the existing airports should be enlarged, and others provided in order that the air route through the Northwest Corridor might be completed at the earliest possible date. Then, with the entry of Japan into the conflict, there came full realization of the strategic position of the Northwest outpost. It was obvious that Japan might obtain, for the time being, control of the North Pacific. Therefore the need for alternate communication to that by sea was obvious.

Time, as is usually the case with wartime projects, was the dominant factor, and the United States, whose general staff had available a correct appreciation of the situation, made proposals which culminated in the completion of the Northwest Air Staging Route, and building of the highway.

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### **Tribute to Military Engineers.**

The building of this road is a great tribute to United States military engineers. It was surveyed from the air and completed in record time. A tote-road connected the railhead at Dawson Creek with Fairbanks, Alaska, within nine months from the commencement of operations, and in November last the road itself was entirely completed; the result of these precautions being the ability to move supplies northward free from any enemy action. It was essentially a battle of logistics, as a result of which Japan's north-east drive for the control of the Aleutians and part of Alaska was frustrated; Japan's forces were driven off the islands already occupied and withdrew from others; a concrete example of being on time with sufficient, instead of too little and too late.

Today, as a result of the incidence of war, the Northwest, which for so long was the great unknown, is possessed of a fine transportation system, a highway 1500 miles long, from railhead to Fairbanks, with an additional 1500 miles of subsidiary roads and access roads to airfields, a network of telegraph, telephone and radio communications with two major air routes.

In addition, the all essential oil supply has been obtained from Canadian oil fields in the vicinity of Norman Wells. This oil supply in itself is a magnificent engineering feat and was naturally all essential to the main project. In fact had Japan's original plan succeeded, the oil supply, without which planes and other transportation would be unable to move, might have saved the situation.

### **Development of the Canol Project.**

Canol, the United States abbreviation of the words "Canadian Oil" was based upon the possibility of securing large quantities of oil from Norman Wells, where there was already a small refinery with four producing wells. The field was enlarged by rapid development, and a pipeline constructed, nearly six hundred miles in length, to convey crude oil to Whitehorse, where a modern refinery was erected; subsidiary lines being built running along the highway to airfields southeast and northward to Fairbanks for the distribution of the refined product.

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So much for our strategic Northwest in relations to defence, but as you will recall our friend Clausewitz enunciated the obviously correct principle that "defence to be successful ultimately leads to attack", and in this connection there are two features of the greatest interest—one is the use being made of the Staging Route in forwarding supplies to Russia. Detailed information upon this point cannot be given for reasons already mentioned, but it is correct to say that along this lifeline war material has been forwarded in vast quantity, and you can appreciate what that has meant to an ally which for over two years has held in check two-thirds of the German land forces and approximately one-third of their airforce, and is at present engaged in victorious advances which will, in all probability, lead to the invasion of Germany itself.

There is also the use of these facilities for counter-offense against Japan. It is only necessary for you to glance at the smaller map before you to appreciate the significance of the means of transportation through the Northwest and Aleutians in connection with such operations against the Nipponese.

I hope, Mr. President, this very condensed account has given a clearer picture than many of those present had previously obtained regarding the importance of the Northwest in our war activities. The work that has been accomplished has resulted from the ability of the United States and Canada to work side by side in harmony, confidence and self-respect.

### **Two Continents Linked.**

In due course the troops of our great ally—the United States—will depart, but the great projects initiated for the joint defence of this continent will remain. Through their agency America, Canada and Asia will be linked together, whilst in addition the airfields and subsidiary undertakings will be instrumental in the development of the Canadian Northwest. Canada in addition to its other great advantages is so geographically situated that it is a link between other great nations and I would like to suggest to the Military Institute the value of international studies, in order that we may, by appreciating the conditions and problems of other lands, learn not only to pull our own weight in approaching world affairs but be in a position to co-operate with others.

We know that in due course victory in the field will be achieved, and that with victory we stand upon the threshold of a new era in which, to be successful, there must be a victory of ideals.

Perhaps you will allow me to close with the observation that the qualities which enabled Canada and the United States to combine in great undertakings for the purpose of preserving values, which the peoples of the North American Continent believed to be essential to their life and happiness, should be utilized for further co-operation in dealing with post-war problems, both to mutual advantage and the service of the world in general.



## England in 1940 - - After Dunkirk

(Address delivered by LIEUT.-COL. W. W. HENDERSON, V.D., at a meeting of the Alberta Military Institute held in the Garrison Officers' Mess on Thursday, May 11th, 1944).

WHEN the President asked me to speak, I was glad to be able to do so and I chose about the only subject on which I am qualified to speak. I never had the good luck to serve in the Field, and I cannot talk about Spitzbergen or Africa or Norway or the real issues of the war.

Those of you who were in the Militia before the war will recall that in 1937 D.H.Q. was quite concerned and asked all Commanding Officers to draw up mobilization plans. They were duly drawn up. I do not know what happened to them, because when this war started I have an idea that the Staff drew up the mobilization plans out of their heads, just as in 1914. The general policy was that officers in command of units would command these units, and that policy was generally carried out.



*Lieut-Col. Henderson*

After Christmas 1939, I got it into my head that Canada's effort in manpower would amount to a maximum of two divisions, for, like some others that might be mentioned, I had a little too much faith in the Maginot line. I came in on 9th April, 1940, going through the regular procedure at Lt.-Col. Littleton's depot here, and on the 22nd April we left Calgary and went to Guelph, Ontario, where the 3rd Canadian Infantry Holding Unit was concentrating. This was in line with what Murray Greene had told me on the 8th of April, for he said that he did not know where they were going, but he did expect that we would be going over right away.

The Holding Unit is the same thing as the "Reserve" Battalion in the last war. Their duty is to receive recruits, completely equip and train them; to receive casualties from convalescent homes, to retrain and re-equip them and send them back. In No. 3 we had recruits for Patricias, Edmonton Regiment and the Seaforth's, and there was made available, by N.D.H.Q. instruction, a number of officers and other ranks



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from No. 10, No. 11, No. 12 and No. 13. It might be thought that a unit formed that way might not get the best of people. I think we were very lucky for we had a lot of good chaps.

### **When Things Looked Black.**

After two weeks at Guelph, half the unit went overseas on 6th May; this half was accompanied by the Commanding Officer and certain instructors, who were sent to schools. The remainder of the unit left Guelph about 6th June. We went to Halifax and it was there we got some idea of the wartime conditions. The basin was full of ships and we lay there for three days. Two days before we sailed we saw a merchantman convey slipping down out of the basin—the ships were loaded to the gunwales with old 75s. There were few of the ships armed, and at that time things looked very black for England. They were trying to borrow or buy from the States, and I think great numbers of the old 75s that the States took at the end of the last war were now being shipped back to England.

There were several people I knew in Halifax then—Brigadier Page and Charlie Lyndon were on that convoy, and also on it were the first contingent of Canadian nurses. We hoped that they were going on our boat, but they went on another boat. I went over on the "Duchess of Athol". The nurses' boat was probably about one thousand yards away and we used to think that we could see officers promenading with them, but later we found out that the nurses were given a distinct station all their own.

One thing that does stand out about Halifax was that the English liners from England pulled into Halifax and they just stayed long enough for necessary operations and out they went. On our voyage out we had Gracie Fields singing some of her songs. We had a good voyage over—ample escort and everything seemed to be pretty well controlled. The ship's radio brought news that the French had thrown in the sponge and that Italy had entered the war, whereupon we had a field day, ripping Italian decorations from several officers.

After a good voyage we arrived at Liverpool, at the Merseyside. There were quite a number of sunken ships in the harbour. They thought that mines had accounted for most of them. We lay at Liverpool for a short time and then had a good trip to Borden, where we had a cold lunch. We arrived at Borden at twelve o'clock on 21st of June and were met by the Colonel and taken to Camp. Borden Camp is quite an old camp—the barracks in which No. 3 were located were built after the South African war and they were pretty cramped. The men's huts, of the usual old type, held about fifty men and there were two little fireplaces in every hut. The officers' quarters were just about as bad. One thing they did have were electric hot water heaters, only they had frozen. However, they had this advantage over the last war, the men did sleep on beds, with mattresses. These were called baskets and were rather uncomfortable things.

### Ten Thousand at Borden Camp.

Borden Camp held about ten thousand. There was one barracks which had just been completed in 1937 and that was a training school. One or two other wooden barracks were more comfortable. The mess kitchens there were very good—roomy, and with up-to-date equipment. They had central heating and steam in the mess kitchens. They were as good as anything I have seen here, with the exception of the permanent force mess at Currie. At that time Canadian reinforcements were being taken to Borden when Canadian formations went overseas. They all went to Aldershot first and there they were quarantined and as soon as they came out of quarantine they would come out under canvas. The First Division had come back to Aldershot in April. Two battalions of the First Division had gone on schemes. One brigade of the First Division had got to France. When we got back, Dunkerque was over and the division had been brought back to Aldershot. It left Aldershot within a week and was taken over near Redhill, in Surrey.

It is quite true, I think, that immediately after Dunkerque, First Canadian Division was the only division trained and equipped. They were well equipped and they were well trained, for they had had time to train. They only got over about Christmas and it was very inclement weather. During the winter they were still getting equipment and their training had been, to some extent, neglected.

They pushed off into the fields to act as G.H.Q. for the counter-attack force—the only division available. They equipped and reorganized the men from Dunkerque as soon as they could and by the end of July five or six divisions were equipped and in various stages of training.

I had a great company. We were located around Bramshott. I think that that part of England had greatly improved outskirts around the towns and cities. They had been comparatively recently rebuilt and had an air of prosperity. One thing I never did see in England and that was a poorly-kept backyard. The day after I arrived there we were addressed by General Crerar, and he told us that we would have wet feet wherever we went.

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### Feeling of Great Pride.

Soon after I got there I had a chance to go to Bristol and I talked with a good many of the British people and I found that they considered the situation serious but they did not get the wind up. They said: "We have only got ourselves to fall back on", and they considered that Dunkerque was not a defeat, considering that the British had lost such a small proportion of the army in France. There was a feeling of great pride in the fact that a volunteer fleet of yachting vessels and small steamers had helped so immensely in the evacuation of Dunkerque.

When I got to Borden I found that I was given a marked map and I was told to draw up a defensive line. The Edmonton Regiment Company was mine. They were by far the best company (of course). But seriously, I will say that the relationship between the Edmonton Regiment and the Holding Unit was of the best. They did not appeal to every one, of course. I still remember the C.O. of the Seaforths sending down fifty bad actors and endeavouring to get fifty fairly good men in return. They did not have much luck trying to pull anything on the Edmonton Regiment. We had to take over a good deal of the responsibility for defence. I do not know why we did, because there were times when we were very short of weapons—we had only 17 Lewis guns, 9 Brens and 7 anti-tank rifles for over a year. Rifle ammunition we got in various quantities, but we only had 49 rounds of ammunition for the anti-tank guns. We were not allowed to fire anti-tank ammunition. We dug a lot of trenches and put up plenty of barbed wire.

A little stream ran along nearby and we dammed it, just in front of a road and fairly soon we had a little lake there—a nice little lake, and the local inhabitants did not like it because at times large bodies of water were not the best thing to be near. Things went along in this way, with defences being organized, until the middle of October. At that time we had to stand to every night and we patrolled the roads, starting an hour before dawn. The demand for manpower was so great that we were not able to do many of the things that we knew should be done—we just could not do it. A little later on I got a draft of 300 men, but within a week I had no men at all. We had men guarding important installations and other items—a progress report was regularly requested for Divisional and Corps H.Q., and we had men everywhere. There

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were work parties of every description; ordnance guards and so forth, and on one occasion we had just three men and myself left in camp—the rest were all away—our of a strength of 500. It rather angered us, because we thought that the “powers that be” could often have used men from a labour battalion and allowed us to train at least some men continually. However, they did not do that. About that time a march was always good.

### **Many A.W.L.'s But There Was An Excuse.**

At that time we had a lot of chronic A.W.L.'s and there was a certain amount of excuse for it. A lot of the First Division got landing leave after Christmas; some did not; some did not get their Christmas leave until July—not having had any leave they were getting “fed up” There were too many A.W.L.'s for the number of Provost. A man would be gone for sixty days; he would be picked up and court martial held, but often the detention barracks were overflowing and the punishment was based on the number of men who were in detention. It was found that forfeiture of pay was one of the best means of stopping it, for as well as the fact of hitting a man's pocketbook being remembered, you had the use of the man's services in the meantime.

About July the situation was very critical. Many destroyers were lost at Norway. After France fell we lost free use of the English Channel. All boats had to be escorted. England has not a great deal in the way of internal waterways. A terrific amount of traffic has to move by rail—we were very short of men and they certainly were very much overworked after we lost the channel. The British were always immensely proud of the part they played in Norway, and they were right. Another bad factor was this—our big boats could no longer stay on the southern coasts. They had to go north and take the protection of Scapa Flow. In the event of invasion it would have taken them thirty-six hours to get down from Scapa Flow.

The airforce at that time had not endeared itself with British people as it did later. We never had a big airforce. The output of planes was not big. Bomber Command was not large and most of the planes turned out went to Coastal Command, because they had to help out the navy and the army. Even at that time, though, morale was pretty good. They figured that they had never met the Germans on even terms and that our men were just as good, if not better. I do not think that our army ever thought that they got enough ground support from our airforce. I think it is quite true and I do not think they ever did, before El Alamein. I have been told that just before Dieppe, General Roberts asked the airforce for greater bomber support or dive bomber support and they said that they could not do it, because they did not have enough men trained. I think it is possible that if we had had the kind of air support at Dieppe that the Poles and the Greeks and the French suffered from, that the situation might have been a lot different, but we did not get it. I once read that in May, 1940, all that we had fully trained was one ordnance division, and that was just three weeks before the break through. I used to have an idea that the British were strong for the

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two-pounder and for the 25-pounder, but, still, when the war started there were but a few 15-pounders and only three 25-pounder batteries in France. They had to use the two-pounders as anti-tank guns, and the state of our preparation was such that the men did not understand the Boyes anti-tank rifle, and because of difficulties after firing the first shot, thinking it had gone out of order, it was thrown away.

### **Morale Good on the Home Front.**

The morale on the home front was very good, even under bombing. Under the Ministry of Home Defence, the Home Secretary is the man responsible for defence, and I think he had done a good job, because even when the blitz did come there were no great changes necessary. In the whole of the last war there were only 300 tons of bombs dropped on England and that killed 3,000 people. We had some observers in Spain during the Civil War and with the assistance of the information gained there a good job was done for defence. I may say about air defence that it is controlled by the local authorities in each town or city and it worked very well, for they kept in touch with the fire-fighting services and between them they did a very good job indeed.

The warnings were yellow, purple and red. Yellow was shown when enemy aircraft were heard approaching the coast—nobody paid much attention; purple meant that all air defence had to stand by; the red warning was given after they had plotted the course of the raiders, and on the red warning the local siren sounded. They had furnished the houses with a stirrup pump and all had a supply of sand. It was thought that the best defence against planes was a complete blackout, so a complete blackout was used, even in the army camps. They had made little progress with shelters when the raiders started and had encouraged use of "Anderson" shelters. One of these shelters would accommodate about fifty people and they were close to the huts, built of concrete and reinforced steel, with two entrances. They were quite good.

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I do not think the English people ever slowed up—after Dunkerque there were no labour troubles, everyone worked. There was a shortage of labour and when the government asked for volunteers there was a ready response in every case. The situation, as it struck me then, was that the period from June until 31st August was the time for invasion. Italy had just come in. There were scarcely any planes on Malta—the planes that were there were old busses not meant for the purpose, but they went out and shot down many modern Italian planes. They wanted to get Malta out of it in the worst way. If it had not been for such a magnificent defence as put up at Malta, in turn defending Egypt, we would have lost both places.

### **Organize as Defence Troops.**

In England the first idea of use of our troops was as defence troops, which, in fact, they were. We had few trained troops. Our camp took it upon itself to train others, and they furnished a certain number of their best trained material, and the scheme was to organize for counter-attack against any important places that had been taken. The possible invasion area was considered most likely to be Kent, Surrey and in that neighbourhood. Their first attempt at defence was to establish a line along Aldershot, Farnsworth, Guildford, Seven Oaks—all along the bottom of the Humber. They dug tank traps and put logs in them. Later on they started on the south coast—Brighton, Hastings, Folkestone, and so on. I do not know exactly how far they went there, as I was not there. Shortly after that they revamped their ideas regarding us. They began to get a large number of their own troops trained, and they made up their minds that you cannot be strong everywhere. They started holding the coast very lightly and keeping the Canadian units in reserve, so that if the Hun did land, as soon as he had landed we could counter-attack.

Our job in England was, therefore, to be ready and capable in defence and in addition we did a lot of smaller jobs—schemes, reconnaissance of roads and various types of exercises involving counter-attack.

It was mighty hard driving at night in England. By this time all road signs had been removed. There were no signs at stations and the names of the towns had been taken down. Every main road had road blocks, placed at regular intervals, laid so that a vehicle could still pass, at a very slow speed. The roads were prepared for mines; circular holes had been dug in the roadways and blocks had been withdrawn so that anti-tank mines could be put in. Along the south coast they started building rectangular piles of concrete, reinforced with steel, placed so that a tank could not get over them, just about high water mark. They tried various expedients, such as tank traps, slanting inwards, with the piling angled to catch the tracks. The area around Aldershot was criss-crossed with traps of different types, such as sewer pipes eight feet high, filled with concrete. Anything that sounded good was used at the airfields to prevent planes from landing or taking off. They could not possibly cover all possible places, of course, but they did make a good job of getting protection on all strategic places.



### Home Guard Formed.

By this time the Home Guard was formed, but they were not very well trained and they were commanded by a number of officers from the Indian Army, officers available for their use of the regular army and a few old-time officers. Establishments were locally organized on a unit basis and the number of platoons varied with the number of people available—one might have seventy and the next only thirty. The Home Guard was strictly a defence force. Their job was to be ready to fight in their own locality in which they were used to the lay of the land. They were to hold the enemy there and the army would counter-attack. It was quite difficult to co-ordinate on schemes at times, for you would find some lad talking about names and places about which you had not the least knowledge. There was still a great shortage of arms and ammunition. You would find them with any kind of weapon—many sporting rifles and .38 Springfields. It was a great source of annoyance that they could not use the army small arms ammunition. They had some Lewis guns and an occasional Browning machine gun.

There had been very little bombing in England until August 1, and in the earlier time, in fact, the one civilian killed on the British Isles was killed on May 16th on the Orkney Islands. The first bombs dropped on the mainland were on May 24, 1940. After France fell there were about eight big raids from the beginning of June until August 10th. The Germans then started using more planes. The first planes were mostly fighters, no bombers. These, of course, were able to operate without difficulty from the nearby coast of France. I think it was not until August that there was any great bomb damage. In England they did not make the same mistake that the French did. What planes they had were well hidden and protected with sandbags—they did not line them up.

One morning, around August 7th, just when I was getting up, they started in and dive-bombed and machine-gunned the next camp, and they dropped two or three bombs near us. We were very lucky, because the men were just going into breakfast, carrying their mess tins, but I can assure you after these planes came along there were no men in

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sight. Two days after this, one plane came over and dropped five bombs on our camp, and this one did a lot of damage to one officers' mess, one officers' quarters and thirteen huts. I had never before realized how much disorganization one court of inquiry could cause. The mess was in a bad spot, because we had just filled up with booze for the bar and we had no means of getting credit for it. Some officers lost their kits and, believe it or not, it took them a year to get the money. This was typical of army procedure. It was very unfortunate. The bombing would not have caused as much grief except for the fact that one of the bombs struck the water main, and as soon as one hut burst into flames the fire created a draft that quickly spread to the other huts. We soon decided to get the stuff out of all huts and dump it outside.

### **On Leave to Ireland.**

In September 7th I went on leave to Ireland. When I left London at 0540 I heard the air-raid warning signals and that was the first big raid on London—350 planes. They tried to get Woolwich Arsenal and the East India docks, and the fires they left burning were terrific. From then on it was pretty bad. Of course by October 1st, Hitler had had to give up the idea of putting the R.A.F. out of business and he swung over to night raiding. In that first big bombing there were about 450 killed and about 1,600 wounded, which was pretty bad. There was one large raid in the following year in which bombs fell directly on a tube station being used for shelter and about eight hundred were killed that night in the tube station. Our raid casualties were not as bad as they expected. A large hospital was set up, but when it was found that they did not need it everything came back.

I think that the average reaction was this: first of all, in the early days, you were scared stiff and just looking for the first available spot to get into. One came down near you and scared you even worse, and so on, for the first few experiences, but when it was all over the number of lives lost and the property damage was relatively small. In the early days, or years, instructions were given that when the raid sirens sounded all the troops were to drop whatever they were doing and get into the shelters, whether they needed to or not. This idea did not go over very well, because they were always going or coming from shelters, for they were over us almost every night for about four months. Orders were changed after that. When the first air raid warning signal went the men would just get up and get dressed and then go to sleep. **No further action was taken unless the planes came near enough to do some damage or drop some bombs.** Each camp had an air defence section and they were very busy people. One of their first duties was to deal with incendiary bombs, and they had quite a bit of practice. Five bombs dropped on us were apparently high explosive and they did a lot of damage.

I was in London the night the Guildhall was bombed. There were not many high explosives there, but the whole street was soon afire and in half an hour the place was filled with hose and firemen. We managed to drive about a bit here and there and saw several huge fires.

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The Germans greatly favoured bombing from Saturday noon on through Sunday because at the week-end a great number of people were away. After that all buildings had to have so many fire watchers. Had as good a plan as this been enforced in the beginning of the big raids we would not have had nearly as many serious fires.

### Second Division Arrives.

About September the Second Division came over to Aldershot. The First Division were still living in huts and moved into billets about November. I chiefly wanted experienced riflemen and men who could lay wire. I got hold of some who were capable of doing a smart job.

At Larkhill that fall there were a lot of 25-pounders. A demonstration on a large scale of 75s—18- and 25-pounders was held and I think the 25-pounder is the poorest of them all. One great fault was that the traverse was too small. We had a considerable experience with all the various sizes of guns available and it was unfortunate that quite often huge shipments of the wrong size ammunition were made available, but very little of the proper size.

After that we settled down to a rather wonderful life. The soldiers in England were very well treated. We had two shows each week, either by Auxiliary Services or others, and there was a Garrison show by "ENSA" for which a nominal fee was charged. They had some good artists and also some poor ones.

# Spork

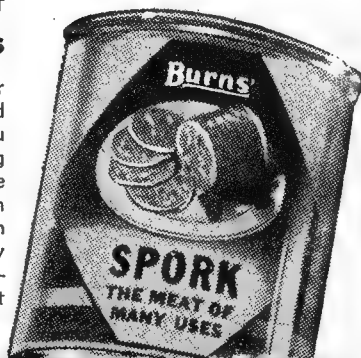


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A very important feature of the services available was "NAAFI". They are all powerful there, having full authority in auxiliary services, in many ways. They operate all canteens and items of that nature. This is governed by directors representing all the services. It is a non-profit organization but most unpopular with the Canadians. However, "NAAFI" operates with government power ahead of anything else in that line. They give back six per cent of gross profits to the units, also furnish the army with its food, cigarettes, and so forth. We used to think they were a bunch of dumb clucks and we did not like them at all. We found the English people very hospitable, if we had any soldier who wanted to be entertained. Those that did, certainly enjoyed themselves. During the winter we had visits from Col. Hamilton Gault, General Pearkes, General McNaughton, Air Marshal Joubert, A. V. Alexander and F. M. Milne.

When I went to Ireland on leave it was very full of English soldiers. At one time they seemed very glad to have the soldiers there on leave. I tried to find out what conditions actually were in Ireland, but I couldn't. I do not think that I have much more to say. From November in 1940 we thought the invasion danger had pretty well passed. It was felt that all danger of invasion was removed when Germany attacked Russia. When Russia entered the war it marked an end to the siege of Britain. I really think that the Hun lost any chance of taking Britain or her colonies when he was prevented from raiding London and the English cities to the limit in the winter of 1940.

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## England During the Blitz

(Address delivered by MAJOR J. H. NEELAND before the Alberta Military Institute in the Garrison Officers' Mess at the Calgary Armouries).

**N**EEDLESS to say I am glad to be back in Canada, although I am not particularly glad to be back at this time, when things are popping over there and daily one sort of expects the island to tip up on its south end. But, nevertheless, I am glad to be back, tinged with a little disappointment with the size of the little allowance in Canada, also the size of the income tax. But, on the other hand, it has its compensations. One sees bananas for the first time in four and a half years, and one is able to purchase oranges, and I think we almost fell in on the boat when we saw a grapefruit.

Now, I don't know whether I am tied down to what I am supposed to say, so I think if I just ramble on of my experiences from the time I went over—and I might say here that there have been a great many changes in the last four and a half years.

In November, 1939, having been told by District Headquarters that I was too old to go with my unit, the Signals, I got an opportunity to go and I went with something that I have never been in in my life, and that was the artillery. However, I only went as the humble paymaster, and in those days the paymaster was a regimental officer. They saw fit to change that in 1940 and take them on in the Pay Corps. Whether that was a good way or not, I have my own opinion and I won't quarrel with the higher authorities. The paymaster that went across in the First Division had a lot of work to do besides paying. F.R. & I. has a lot of instructions which the paymaster will do if the C.O. desires him to do it, and that includes almost anything that the C.O. thinks of. My late C.O. was Colonel Wyman, and Bob decided apparently that the paymaster would do almost anything.

### Six Days in Crossing.

Well, we had the usual trip across Canada, taking six days to get down to the seaport, and I had the privilege of seeing my son, whom I had bid goodbye to on October 25th, and he said, "I guess I won't be seeing you in this war, Dad"; so I wired him from Kingston. The train stopped there about an hour and we had a very nice time and a very excellent breakfast in the morning. On the boat we had the usual drill and that sort of thing. We got off about the 18th of December, after the usual



Major J. H. Neeland

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very uncomfortable train journey down to Aldershot. We went into the coldest barracks, I think, in existence. We had one little fireplace and coal was at a premium, and you ate sitting on one hand and eating with the other. I enjoyed myself very much with the Third Field. It was composed of the 92nd, an Alberta unit, and the 19th from Vancouver. The commander of the 19th battery from Winnipeg was a man who felt quite proud of the distinction in that he was a commander in the last war in the same battalion.

The life of a paymaster, as I said before, in the First Division was very interesting. Messing was quite different from the last war when we rationed ourselves and had our own ration lines, but now everything is under the British Army Service Corps, and we were also on orders of General Ironside, who was on Staff at Aldershot—sort of general lecturer to the regiment. He immediately got out an order to the regiment that any officers of the last war were to be utilized on lectures on various subjects—mine, discipline and deportment—and trying to think up a different lecture every night was quite a job. Our other work was administration, in other words, to take the administration work off the Adjutant's shoulders and leaving him for "G" duties; and we were orderly officer almost every day. I assumed duties as orderly officer when we came in at four o'clock.

### Visiting Old Haunts.

The first thing, of course, after going back to the Old Country—having been there in the last war—was to get around to the old haunts, and one was a hospital, and I found the wing of the hospital was built on the old parade ground of the 50th Battalion in the last war. The huge gap which we cut in the hedge, which caused a Court of Inquiry, is still there. They have built the asphalt road through the gap. The old pups are still there, and the Prince of Wales ————— and the Royal Armoury. We only had two officers who had been in the last war, the 2 i/c and myself, and the younger officers all wanted to see the country. There was practically no restriction on the gasoline at that time and we got around in our cars, so that again we assumed the job of permanent guide and after telling them of the good times we had in the last war, they wanted us to draw up an itinerary and show them a good time. This was rather hard to do after twenty years, and one considered if, when you turned the next corner, we were going to find what you said was around the corner. We had several nice trips down Salisbury Plains to the old artillery ranges, and a lot of the old things of the last war came back. As I remember, when we landed in England in the last war we sort of went at our training in an easy way until one day Col. Mason was called up to headquarters and came back in a very black mood and was told that his training schedule was very much behind and if he didn't "pull up his socks he would lose his head"; and that was repeated to all and sundry. The same thing happened this time. Our friend disappeared for several days and came back in the same way. Col. J. —————, who is well-known in this district and is a member of the Institute here, was well-known in that division.

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About the end of May we began to believe the rumour that we were going some place. We were down at Salisbury Plains and got orders to hightail it back to the country. About halfway to Aldershot we got other orders and we turned down the next road and doubled back. Then we crossed over and eventually reached thirty miles from Paris. They lost all their transport and all they brought back was the field transport. About one hundred and sixty miles from the seaport we were told to take all our transport into the field and drain the gas. We eventually got our men and equipment back to the seaport. We were roused at five o'clock in the morning and told to get the heck off the place. We got back to barracks about five days later. That was our one claim to glory in the entire war, as far as I could see.

Then we were ordered back into reserve, and this time were much further inland. There was a very nice park there, and we had nothing to do. We had lots of air raids—lots of scares. The hooters used to go every night. In those days we were using the slit trenches and it was the officers duty to see that everyone took shelter in them. It got very tiresome, but it required a lot of courage. We were there four or five weeks and did nothing at all. The park was very pretty but it was tiresome because we weren't allowed out of the park.

### **Pays Compliment to Price.**

In July, 1940, I managed to do something that I wanted to do for a very long time, and I got out of pay parade. The Staff Captain was from Winnipeg, and we had a Platoon Major from London, Ontario; the Transportation Officer came from the coast and the 2 i/c was from Moose Jaw. So we inflicted the west on the east that time. Our Brigadier there was Price, and a finer officer to serve under I have never known. He had a difficult unit to handle, because the Valcartiers, of course, being almost a French regiment—28% of them were French—so that our staff had to be mixed French, and it was quite a problem to keep peace and harmony in a brigade of that kind. Brigadier Price seemed to be able to do it. He was very strict with the officers. We had one day a week in the mess when no language was spoken but French. This was very hard on us, and our Transportation Officer never spoke a word that day. Our seats were allocated and the French

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officers were not allowed to sit together because then they would have to talk English, because some of these French officers did not speak enough English to give an order.

During the time that I was with the Third Brigade we were on the south coast as a reserve force. The scare was hot at that time and I believe everybody thought there was going to be an invasion. There was no reason that we could see why they should not invade as we had very little, if anything, to stop them. At that particular time the First Division was the only completely Armoured Division in England. We had everything on the (1098), but in order to get a lot of it we had to strip a lot of British divisions. Of course it helped us to some extent in that in June, 1940, we were ready to go to France. We were up at our (1098) then. The field force had to be made up from somewhere and they made up from British divisions. None of the British were fully armed, so it looked as though the Canadians would be used to push around anywhere where the invasion was imminent. At that time it was generally conceded that Jerry could land anywhere at 19 points. Those points would not necessarily be all exploited. The thing that the Commander-in-Chief had to decide was to hold his reserve in the centre of the south and decide where the beach-head was to be permanently established. We were also told that we couldn't expect any help from the navy for 72 hours; and they felt quite confident to break up any permanent beachhead. So that was the situation.

We went down there in the early part of October. The brigade the Calgary Highlanders were in relieved us and they took over from the brigade headquarters. At that time down there everyone believed in the invasion, and the farmers and townspeople were all ready to get out on receipt of the signal. We had five codes. We had three of them but never got the top two, but one night it looked as though we were going to have the fourth one—everything pointed to it. The thing then was for the civilians to retire inland—the ordinary civilians and householders—but all around that south coast there were a lot of farms and their instructions were to drive all their livestock north and the scorched earth policy was to be adopted. Some of the old farmers were ahead of orders and when on inspection down there I came upon farms—many of them—who had their hayricks built up close to the four corners of the barn and the house and they had their petrol tins there all ready to light the works. Of course everything was heavily mined. They were laying mines and they got off plan some way and eight men and a dog went up. All the hotels and promenades were mined and the streets leading up to the front—the houses on the corners were all mined and cut away on the corners and propped up by timbers which the engineers could have fixed up at the last minute, and finally could have dropped them across the street. But it was only a matter of holding out for 72 hours.

However we pulled out and the Second Division went in, and after they pulled out the British went in. That was only a small spot there. Just after I went to Brigade—in July, August and September—was the battle of Britain when the German Luftwaffe came over in great



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strength and our boys went up to meet them with great success. Most of the air battles took place right over the Canadian area and any day of the three high days—one day we got 189, and that is the last day—Jerry quit it. If he had persisted for another two days, in all probability we could not have got into the air at all. But he quit that day. That day I don't think anyone did any work at all. We were out on the lawns gazing up at the sky and looking at fights from dawn to dark. One plane dropped in the field lines, exploded and set fire to all the officers' tents. Our 2 i/c was lying down at the time and he got out in a dressing gown and little else. A lot of the officers were lost and killed. But up north we were scouring the country for German prisoners. Practically every officer was out in an 1800 cwt., watching for those that were brought down. Two were brought to Brigade Headquarters, the Intelligence Officer and myself getting one. We had about as much trouble getting him away from the civil police as we did in capturing him, if not more. Their instructions were to take them, and so were ours. The one we got was only a young fellow, about eighteen, and he was shot through both ankles and both wrists and had a rope burn across the back of his head, so he wasn't feeling very good. It was certainly a great sight because you could see miles and miles of streamers of the exhaust smoke cutting out, and our planes would dive down after a Jerry or Jerry would dive down after one of our fellows, and they got two of them that we could see.

### Air Raids on Southern England.

That was one of the most exciting things we saw in the whole war—and incidentally, there wasn't any Croydon Airfield any more. The bombing of London just started—the first raid on London was on September 7th, 1940. There was an air-raid warning immediately war broke out but it was always a good argument as to whether that was a fake or a test to see if Mr. Nazi would know, or whether something was coming. But until September, 1940, London had not had any planes. In August the real tough time for London started, and that continued, with the exception of Christmas and New Year's, until about the last week in May of 1941. Then there was a long period when very little happened to London, although plenty happened in Britain—Liverpool,

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Coventry and York, and all the towns on the southeast coast got it very badly. The coast towns over which they came in or went out always got something, either coming or going.

We were up in London when they had a very bad night—at least it seemed a very bad night to me. But, of course, a blitz is something like one's experience in the last war. If you were a platoon commander the whole war centres on your platoon, and in the same way a blitz becomes important if it is in a vicinity where you are. If there is nothing dropping around where you are, you take a very dim view of the blitz until you see the casualty lists posted on the wall. The proper time to get an idea of the damage is to get out the following morning, very soon after daylight and see it before the streets are roped off by the police.

We lost Price about that time. In the early spring of 1941 he came home to Canada.

- Now, London blitzes—I am afraid I can't give you any real life stories of a bad blitz in London. As I said, it was almost continuous from September 7th until Christmas, and then they laid off for Christmas week and New Year's and then they came back with a bang in January and then tapered off until March 8th. On March 8th we had a very heavy one in London and then they left us alone until the 21st, when they gave us a real one and almost burned London down.

During a raid, if you are not on duty at Headquarters, and you are at home, the first thing to do is to get up—it is always at night—and go down to some place. I was living at a club in London for fifteen months. It is a very amusing club, and a very old one. It was the first club in London to extend hospitality to Canadians. We were only in London about a week when the officers were asked if they wanted to become members of the club for the duration, without paying fees. That is the only club that extends that privilege today. There were quite a few officers in the club, approximately 1,500. At the present time it is the Sports Club. It is on St. James' Square. They are very nice people, and are distinctly British people. They are not going to let air raids disturb them at all. There was a card stuck under the glass on the dresser in the rooms reading something like this: "In the event of an air raid, those wishing to be called will leave word with the office the night before". Right across from St. James' Square—about three hundred yards on each side—there was a high wire fence and locked gates so that only the people living in the Square could have access to it, everyone having a key. Later on in 1941 they came around with torches and cut all the railings off and carted them away.

### **Large Buildings Collapse.**

Directly across the street from us was another club which was badly blitzed in the bombing. The whole back wall was torn out and they had six or eight casualties. One old gentleman read in the paper some place that the best way to have his bed was up against the thickest part of the wall, and he figured the safest place was right against the

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fireplace, but when the bomb dropped the breeze sort of came down the chimney and covered the old gentleman with soot. He came downstairs looking like a minstrel. He had been weeping and his eyes and lips stood out very well against the soot on his face. Then he discovered the back wall was gone and he went to investigate. He saw something lying out there and said, "Don't be a fool, come in", but there was no answer, so he repeated this several times. Finally he said, "Come in, come in, don't be a damn fool. Come in, you are going to get hurt." Finally an officer came and told him, would he please come in, that what he was looking at was the statue of Sir Walter Scott. The same night the Canada Life Building, which is on the same side of the street as the club, was dropped into the basement—a five-storey building with a white tiled front and the words "Canada Life Insurance Company" dug into the wall. The bomb dropped right on top of it and it just collapsed. One huge corner stone, bearing the words "Canada", about the size of this table, was hurled across the street and through the roof of the other club and landed on the table, which collapsed on the floor. They are going to keep that stone there.

On the other side of the Square the Imperial Life Building of Canada was sliced in half. There was a fireplace there in the edge of which was a log framed with two verses on it, and they were still there. You could see for about one hundred feet on each side of the corner, and there was a pinnacle left on the corner about fifty feet high. I don't know how anyone could get up there without a ladder, but perched on the top of that was an empty whiskey bottle. The residents claim that it was blown there. I don't know. A bomb would take a building out of a row as neat as though it had been done by an expert and the building next to it would only have the glass broken, but away down the street a building would have collapsed.

From February 15th till April 27th they came over us twice a week. They ranged from 12, 14, 18, 20 plane raids, and one night they estimated that there was one hundred planes over London. It was a very interesting night, and as I said before, raids were important in how close they were to you, and this one was right down our street. This latter raid took place the end of March—almost the last of March they got St. James' Palace very badly in dropping three or four bombs, one just

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north of the club, one just south of the club, one in St. James' Palace and one in the park. There wasn't a single window left in the club. They didn't have a single piece of glass, even on the interior windows—it was all gone. The window frames were torn from the walls. There was a Canadian staying there prior to coming back to Canada and he decided that he would go to bed, but on his way out of the coffee room he met some old cronies who insisted that he stay and chat with them for a while. Well, he stayed, and while he was sitting on the arm of a chair the raid happened and the ceiling dropped in and he was seriously hurt by glass cuts. With a few stitches in his head and a cut hand he considered himself very lucky, for when he went to find the room he should have been in, there was no room there. It had been cut off altogether. In October London was badly battered about—particularly the east end of Oxford Street. In Oxford Street proper one of the large departmental stores was totally destroyed. Nothing was left of the stock whatsoever. Now, places like those huge departmental stores, about the size of Eaton's, were totally demolished, and you would think those scars would always remain and that you would be reminded of them, but the people get busy and in a few weeks everything would be totally cleaned up and a new building erected, and after you pass that several times, you sort of think it has always been there.

### **Only Two Stations Operating.**

That is why people who come to London after an absence of some time say, "Well, where is all the damage I heard about?" At one time there were only two stations in London that were operating. Even yet the tubes don't run past Picadilly down to Waterloo. As soon as the alert is sounded you have to get out and make your way the best way you can. The tubes were used for shelter and the first time I went down in a tube in my life—I wasn't on a tube in the last war, as I was only passing through London twice—and I went down and we had a tour, going from tube station to tube station and walking around and seeing the people. They used the back part of the platform and the rest of the platform for about eight or nine feet back to the wall was a solid mass of humanity trying to sleep. There were people of all ages and all walks of life with their blankets down trying to get what sleep they could; all along the floor and up the stairway. They were allowed to sit on half the stairway. Lots of people lived in the shelters and went there from work and stayed there all night. You had tickets for a certain spot, and when you got that ticket, that was your space. The rich people had shelters under their businesses and threw them open to the public. The tube was not the best place to sleep, because when the trains go through the wind nearly blows the blankets off one; and with the noise of the trains, I don't know how anybody could sleep. In places they have two rows of bunks, sometimes three high, along the wall and that leaves space for the travelling public. But I don't think that many people go there. The London people are getting careless about the air raids, and up until February they weren't using the tubes as much as before.

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All through September, October, November and December, and right on to May was when Fleet Street in the vicinity of St. Paul's kept getting it all the time.

We had a very near miss at C.M.H.Q. just about that time. They dropped one just across the road on Pell Mell Street. Most of the staff, particularly the girls, were allowed to stay in C.M.H.G. if they wished. If they lived at outside points it was rather difficult to get home after an air raid, and the next morning it was that much more difficult to get back to work. But one night the basement was flooded and we had the experience of seeing eight of our stenographers swimming manfully around in their pyjamas and nighties while the janitor worked hard at rescuing them. After that no one was allowed to sleep in the building.

### Italians Leave London.

To many of you the \_\_\_\_\_ Hotel is well known. It was badly hit. The owner, an Italian, was one of the very few Italians who was allowed to remain in England after the start of the war. After the last war this hotel became a favorite meeting place. The Italians made a lot of money out of the last war when they were our allies and a lot of famous headwaiters came over from Italy to take over some of the bigger hotels and one of them for being headwaiter or manager of the kitchen was earning \$5.00 an hour. However, when Mussolini came into the war he finished all of that, so that these people who, up to that time, had worn possibly the most expensive suits in London and travelled in the most expensive cars and had people kow-tow to them to get seats at the restaurants and hotels lost everything overnight. One of the most famous ones was \_\_\_\_\_ who happened to be the vice-consul for Mussolini, used to come in as headwaiter for the night in all his glory with his silk britches and wearing all the orders that he could by virtue of being vice-consul.

It was near this place that the Duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson used to dance, and the first time they were seen together in public was there. You can still see the big round table in the dining room. All of these people somehow got away—they scrambled out of England with

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the Embassy staff. Their brothers were not quite so fortunate in that their ship was torpedoed by the Germans, and as the ship carried most of these headwaiters, they will not be back in London.

The last raid of any importance was just before I came away in March. They had about one hundred and fifty over England and one hundred over London. This raid started at about eleven o'clock at night. They were doing considerable ground straffing and zooming down right over the chimney tops. They dropped lots of incendiaries and after the raid was over the wardens told us that they had gathered up about nine hundred of these incendiaries in about four blocks. The next day we had to rush around and go to the food office and collect sufficient to get these cards so that we could get fresh clothes. The same night there were seventeen huge fires to be seen from the roof of the building where I was. Any one of them would probably be two or three complete blocks burning. That was the night when they hit St. James' Palace. The old palace got a pretty bad going over as the bomb dropped right outside on the street.

### **Canada's Contributions Appreciated.**

I don't say this in any way of criticism, but I have had people say to me that over here we don't know there is a war on. I don't think that bears out at all. My experience has been in the Old Country that they fully appreciate our contributions and never stop telling you so. They do appreciate everything that Canada has done, and they do know in England that if Britain needed anything and we have it here, it would be sent, even if it meant going short ourselves. The only trouble is the immediate need of shipping space. Probably we shall have to go short of butter because I was informed just before I came away that Australia and New Zealand had a crop failure and Canada is going to supply more. In London we got two ounces a week. If you use a "Handypat" and cut that in half, that is two ounces. The milk situation is bad and will probably be worse this year. They are down now to two-thirds of a pint five days a week. There is lots of powdered milk, but it hasn't very much body to it. It is all skim milk powder. Peculiarly enough our 100% butterfat isn't very popular over there. They say it tastes funny. We had no eggs at all from September 15th to January 15th, but they told us the egg situation had eased up materially and we would have two eggs every three months. But if you are living with a private family you don't dare eat an egg because it is much better to pool them and make a cake. Of course cakes in England are all made to government specifications. It doesn't contain any milk or eggs or butter and therefore isn't very good.

June 2nd, 1944.

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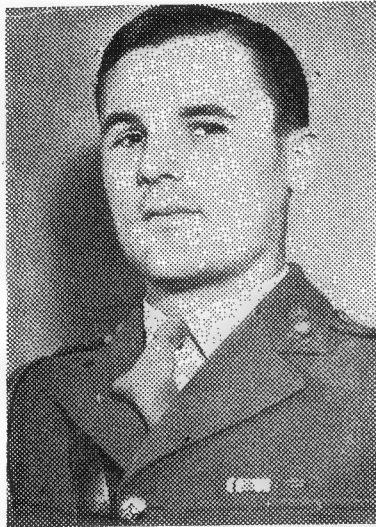
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## "D" Day . . and Also Burma

(Address delivered by MAJOR FRANK ASHTON, Royal Artillery, before members of the Alberta Military Institute at a meeting held in the Garrison Officers' Mess in the Armouries, Calgary).

I AM going to tell you something about "D" day first. At this time last year, on the Burma front, I had got mixed up with mosquitoes and Japs and I must say found the greatest danger to be from the mosquitoes and very often found myself concerned with assault landing craft—then, very shortly, found myself on General Eisenhower's staff.

I met a lot of very good friends, because I had worked with the American 1st Division and I got a very alcoholic reception. I think you would like to know "Ike", one of the finest leaders produced in this war. In Algiers two years ago the names of officers who had done particular jobs, and done them well, were brought to him. Inset beside their qualifications were "A's" and "B's"—"A" for American and "B" for British. Ike said, "Rub these out and we will talk business." In March of this year, in every department, he had representatives of both nations. An American Colonel assigned to certain work would probably have a British Major. That rule was uniform throughout the three services.

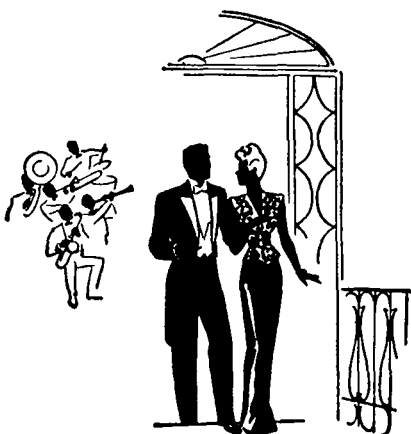


*Major Ashton*

Just about the time that I arrived there was a large portion—about 25 miles on each side of Dover—which had been completely cleared of civilians for the training of assault forces. There were real pillboxes, real reinforced concrete strong points on the beaches, and we were allowed to put tanks through anything. During the training the assault forces completely devastated a large area. This job of training was merely assault training and was originally introduced about two years ago. The whole of this training was assault—no defence—and the main assault action was by infantry.

### **This is Strenuous Training.**

The main lines of this training were such strenuous items as twenty miles on forced marches, probably a swim of half a mile or a mile; then march back to camp—it was really the last word in exercises. A great deal of this training was done with little or no sleep. We were allowed benzedrine. During the planning period, in addition to the



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bombing of the enemy coast, there was a great deal of information gathered about the positions and the strength of the defences along the coast. This was done by my officers, who went ashore from subs. Each officer had a particular spot or stretch of beach assigned to him. He got there in a rubber dinghy and examined each foot of beach—whether or not it had tank traps, or was mined; what particular type of obstacle was present, and so on. That went on at various parts of the coast of Europe for a long time. Following on this information being gained, and particularly throughout the three months preceding the invasion, a great deal of bombing was done—at times extremely heavy in certain areas. At places where we were going to land we would have twice as many bombs dropped. We will see the reason for that later.

Finally, the planning was all over. My next job was to observe ships' shellfire, signalling back by wireless and control gunfire by wireless, two ways, in landing craft, when assaults were made or when troops were being dropped by parachute or glider. All our fellows had been well trained during these last few months.

Finally, we moved out of our training areas and went down to where the assault troops were concentrating. The whole of southern England was one vast camp; there were almost endless barracks in which the troops were housed and many long lines along the roads where the transport was located. There even was one three-mile stretch with three pubs in it.

In addition, there were prodigious piles of ammunition dumps ready to move across just as soon as we had the transport. Everywhere one looked there appeared to be ammunition dumps.

### And Then "D" Day Arrived.

At last "D" day did arrive. You can imagine the American troops. None of the fellows had been in action before, although they had, in cases, been there two years. The British moved very large forces to the south coast and the landing craft which were going to be used were brought back from the various points where they had been in use. There were all kinds of concrete loading platforms. We just drove

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straight down into the ships. In some cases, due to sizes of vessels, concrete ramps were built. As the ships assembled, it really was quite a sight—as far as one could see there were landing craft, destroyers and warships; escort vessels of all descriptions, along with troop transports, actually, as far as you could see.

On the night of June 4th it was definitely decided that "H" hour would be dawn next day. That night the sea grew very rough and it was found that many of the landing craft were unseaworthy in this heavier sea, largely owing to the necessity of them drawing so little water. Otherwise, they would be liable to approach sidewise to the beach. Any army would be as helpless as a crowd of small boys if they were perched in large numbers on these landing crafts and unable to land. So the invasion had to be called off for two nights successively. Tide levels were closely watched and it was thought that now the move might have to be postponed for two weeks, although it was always possible that General Eisenhower would decide to move rather than risk two weeks' delay. On June 5th it was so decided that "H" hour was on June 6th.

In two hours we were close off the French coast. With a huge bombing effort and artillery support we were going in on exact lines previously determined. The whole thing was amazingly well executed—we had wonderful support from the bombers. The warships proceeded to clear the beaches with H.E. shells and reduced charges from a warship's normal charge, the reduced charge having been found to be more effective for the uses required at this time. The destroyers darted in and out, here and there and everywhere. The bomber effort was stupendous. I happened to go back to England just about the time of the Coventry raid and I was spending that night in Coventry, and this was nothing less than hundreds of times greater.

### **Waves of Bombers in Action.**

As fast as you could raise and lower your eyes wave upon wave of bombers swept over the beach-head for over two hours. They dropped upon their targets a vastly greater weight of bombs than was dropped upon Coventry. It is interesting to note that untold damage was inflicted upon gun emplacements at negligible cost—even an ignorant person watching it would realize why.

It is quite impossible to accomplish the destruction of the type of emplacements the enemy had there. There was just one long line of emplacements with five-foot concrete walls and they had twenty-foot solid roofs, of rock in most cases, over them. They lay on the left flank of the Americans and the right flank of the British—a two-mile stretch of them nicely connected by tunnels. The main object of the bombing and of the naval support was to subject the enemy to such a concentrated fire that they could not make proper use of them in that way, and we succeeded. We in turn lost a few ships to mines, but, generally speaking, the operation came off simply. We could see a lot of "flak" and shore defences against aircraft, but nothing came our way.

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However, we had to stop just before we reached the beach. Just about five hundred yards out our troubles began. The first problem was a line of "hedgehogs" which consisted of rails and scaffolding, twenty-five or thirty feet long, embedded in the sand at low tide and crossed and they stuck up like that (illustrates with crossed fingers) two about the height of this room. They had mines on the top of each one and were well placed where it would have been possible to use landing craft along the coast. At high tide they were just submerged and at low tide they were very serious obstacles to unloading the troops to fight. The enemy had now realized that something had caused us to stop and then they began shooting back. We were thinking of how we were going to surmount the "hedgehogs". Specially trained assault engineers did the job. They had to get out of the landing craft, get up to the "hedgehogs" with specially prepared explosive charges and blow open a gap.

### **Battling Through a High Sea.**

There was quite a high sea running; the gap was about one hundred yards wide and through that hundred-yard gap we had to try to put through a whole division, in fighting order. My own craft beached a long way out. We did not intend to be left behind our comrades, so off we went, into four feet of water, and went on wading, then suddenly found ourselves in fifteen feet of water—that was something our reconnaissance had not located. Most of us lost all of our personal equipment, but the majority of us knew about Commando operations and raids to have our web equipment lashed on. We had our grenades in the pack and we had rope lashed over everything. If you did come up against a situation where it was impossible to carry on with the equipment any longer, there was a special type of knot used which, when undone, allowed you to slip everything right off over your shoulders. We kept it all lashed, however, and were able to swim ashore—our weapons were special weapons which were carried high on the back, carefully protected with waterproof covers.

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We did arrive on the beach, however, and the beach was quite a shambles—there were a lot of crafty things worked out with the use of barbed wire. The beach was mined for probably one hundred yards in depth. We had decided that as soon as possible Churchill tanks would be used to blast a gap in beach defences. Owing to the difficulties of the unloading area and assemblies on the beach they disembarked in four feet of water. There was very little room. The infantry had to run ashore. Most troops' orders were to push on and in various Commando and Ranger units were assigned special duties on gun emplacements. Pillboxes containing German reinforcements had been shelled by destroyers, usually with 4.7's at five hundred yards and this had disposed of many of them. Many pillboxes had to be dealt with, and similarly high ground that was strongly held. There were so many of these odd guns scattered through the coast defences; guns entirely separated from one another, and field guns dotted about in clever concealment, that it took four days to finally wear them down. We had one bad obstacle. An extra German division had been moved up and these were SS troops, officered by Germans—they were very high class infantry. The German system of defence, though, for the whole of Europe, and along these long stretches of coast particularly, was that they took men from the captured countries—Poles, Russians, Czechs, and having dressed them in German uniforms, disposed enough Nazis amongst them so that they fairly well had to fight. In addition to this they held back their better armoured troops, to be thrown in anywhere we landed.

We had a real heavy armoured attack, particularly as the rate of discharge from landing craft, with tanks and guns, was so much smaller than planned on, chiefly due to the rough sea.

### **Pillbox Produces Twenty-two Nazis.**

On the third day I was in a ditch with an American officer, and we were having a smoke. A German sergeant crawled out of a ditch nearby and we were quite surprised, finding he wanted to show us something. We went along and he went on to show us the entrance of a pillbox. In this pillbox there were two Nazi officers and twenty other Nazis. This, however, was no indication of the spirit of the SS troops on the Caen front.

In the same area during the fighting, from an O.P. one hundred and fifty yards away, we saw them battering the tank tracks at fifteen yards range. The troops were wonderful. They just went on and on, with their own six-pounders. They realized that everything depended upon some success at this time. The whole operation would have failed, straight along the coast, cutting off the front line. The landing craft moored in the bays would have been under a rain of shells—in fact, we would have been all cut off.

The attitude of the French people was interesting. Sometimes you would drive along a road for quite a distance and they would not pay the slightest attention to you. This was largely due and went

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back to the raid on St. Nazaire, which, as you remember, was very successful, but it was not the invasion. Members of the underground, thinking it was the invasion and having orders of what to do in that event, took action and attempted to help them. Of course, when it was over, the Germans took reprisals and shot hostages, and so the French people were much more cautious for two or three days, until they realized it was real. I did see six "Tiger" tanks stalled for lack of gas—quite an unforgettable scene. There was no worry about smashing up their tracks. This was a credit to the underground and was a very great help.

### German Airforce Grounded.

On four successive days, just after dawn, we were bombed, but on D plus eight we scarcely saw any German fighters or bombers, which was an encouraging sign. We were informed that many Focke-Wulfs had been shot down and that we had command of the air. Quite amusing when you think of it—one hundred and sixty fighter airfields available and the German airforce could not stay in the air.

A great deal of sniping went on. One little story will suffice, for my experience. I was sniped at, the bullet going across my knees, and I dived into a ditch. I did not waste time, but it turned out that the ditch was full of water. I crawled out, however, and up along a hedge. In that part of Normandy every field has a hedge running along the edges, and it was fortunate, for that was about the only place I could



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go. I kept crawling along the hedge until I was able to get around the corner of an old house in which I thought he was located, and I got into the first room without being seen by him. When I got in a position to see him, I found that he was one of the fanatical "Hitler Youth". This young German, who was really only a youngster, had a rifle with a short bayonet, and for some reason (perhaps because he was so surprised at seeing me) he did not instantly fire and I managed to squeeze the trigger of my pistol and the bullet hit him in the chest and knocked him over on his back.

On my way back I progressed ten or fifteen miles, and as I was to go to Britain by air from there I was waiting at a nearby airfield and while I was waiting there the planes were landing every thirty seconds, many of them "Douglas" transports. They were entirely filled and some of them contained a lot of British "Waacs"—it was extraordinary to see them slipping in there—every thirty seconds. I was called over and beside me there was a full colonel, an experienced man, from last war, and he was quite amazed, in fact, he was astounded that such things should be a matter of course. You could not see any fighter cover nor any A.A. guns. I do not think there is much more to say about France.

## And Now Burma

A lot of people seem to imagine that with all these troops in Europe we have plenty of experienced troops for fighting anywhere. They will not, however, be capable of going out to fight in Burma, just like that! You cannot take troops from Europe and set them down to fight under entirely different conditions. My own short experience in Burma was quite a lively one, and one does not learn in a short time all there is to know of war. The roads in the jungle are not roads at all, and on the seven hundred odd mile long front it is an entirely different type of war—it is impossible to move transport any distance in the line of advance—you have to make the roads. When you consider the swamp holes and swamps, both of which are always plentiful along the line of advance near the rivers, it is a tremendous job. It must be remembered that during the first six months of this year we had thirty-three thousand of our own sickness casualties alone. This gives you some idea of how necessary it is going to be to acclimatize our men for at least six months, and they will have to have training in that type of warfare.

I was talking to a sergeant of a twenty-five pounder crew from a field regiment, and you could get the picture of murder and butchery when talking to that fellow. Two nights previously, while on rest period, he was asleep and on being wakened to stand to he found his layer scarcely four feet away with his head nearly cut off. The Japs have always shown themselves to be handy with a knife and in situations like this it becomes much more of a war of nerves than we are used to. There is another point in that the Japs opposing the British have doubled their forces there in the past year. Man for man there is no doubt that we are beating them, but, with their huge strength developed

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there is quite a problem ahead. I have been asked many times by the civilian population whether or not we find it possible to hit hard at the enemy. I should say that the answer is that our progress in this direction is very satisfactory.

### Traps Laid Around Our Men.

One night a G.P.O. went out on reconnaissance and he did not come back. Another party went out on recce. at dawn and down the road two hundred yards they saw the body of the G.P.O. I was walking down the road when the two men started to pick up his body. We had just started off a little farther apart and these two chaps put the stretcher down beside him. As it happened, they had arranged a hand grenade, with the pin nearly out. When they moved him the pin came out and they both lost their legs. It is therefore quite easy to see how much bitterness arises with the troops these days when so many of these traps are laid around our men.

I might close on a little anecdote which all of you may not have heard. It seems there was an exclusive club in which the average age of the members was about eighty-seven, and there was a young American officer (about twenty-one) who was made an honorary member of this club. He went over to a British colonel, who had been retired for about the last forty years, who was sitting in his favorite chair, and said, "Well, colonel, would you care to have one of my cigars? They are very good." "No thanks," the Colonel said—"Tried cigars once—didn't like it". Somewhat taken aback, the American said, "Would you join me in a whiskey and water?" "No thanks—I tried that once and didn't like it". "In that case couldn't we have a game of billiards?" "No thanks, I tried billiards once and didn't like it—my son there would give you a game". The American said, "Your only son, I take it?"

November 10th, 1944.

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## Crossing of Gari and Rapido

(Address delivered by LT.-COL. H. C. WRIGHT before the Alberta Military Institute in the Garrison Officers' Mess at the Calgary Armouries).

**D**URING the winter of 1943-44 we were under command of the 8th Army in Italy. Early in the new year found us on the Adriatic side in position covering the Ortona-Orsogna line under direct command of the British 5th Corps. For tactical reasons we were deployed well forward and roughly astride the Divisional boundary between the 5th Canadian Armoured Division and the 8th Indian Division, our main role being to support the 5th Canadian Division with harrassing fire and to provide close support of fighting patrols when required. Targets varied from 1,500 yards—on one occasion up to 13,000 yards in elevation. Considerable work was done with Flying O.P.'s on Jerry's line, on communication routes leading from Chiete and Pescara to his forward areas. Due to our own air superiority practically all of his supplies came up by night.

Weather during the winter had been extremely bad—snow, rain, mud—it was impossible at times to move wheeled or tracked vehicles off the main roads, and the majority of our supplies had to be brought in by Indian mule trains. In some cases, gun pits were often 18 inches deep in water and the platforms had to be continually built up with rubble to keep the guns from sinking too deeply in the mud.

### One Way of Becoming Comfortable.

However, the gunners found ways and means of improvising dug-outs, etc., which were more or less comfortable—usually made so with material that annoyed the Salvage Officer. One of our batteries was in position just behind the cemetery at Caldari and the gunners found it was much more comfortable to clear out the old crypts and occupy the quarters that had been used by some venerable Roman.

As the weather improved, spirits also picked up—especially when the Quartermaster scrounged the material necessary to set up a shower bath in the wagon line area. I am afraid that one of the British Mobile Bath Units are still looking for their equipment and blaming the Ities.

Jerry's artillery shelling was light during the daytime but usually livened up during the night. Mortar and Nebelwerfers were a bit of a different story and they opened up on the slightest provocation and managed to keep life more or less inter-



*Lieut.-Col. Wright*



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esting. Patrols on both sides were very active and on more than one occasion we had grim evidence that someone had been far too curious and slipped through our lines.

It was during one of the quiet spells, when the troops were thinking more about their stay in England and cursing the prewar literature about Sunny Italy, that we finally got a break. I had just returned to R.H.Q. from a visit to a forward observation post with one of the Indian officers and had issued orders covering the artillery support for a fighting patrol that was going out that night into Crecchio. A message came through from C.C.R.A. 5th British Corps to come out of action as soon as possible and report to H.G. British 13th Corps on the Cassino front. I was informed that traffic control had been laid on and that the roads had been cleared for our passage as from 0600 hours the following morning, just a little over twelve hours away.

### **Providing Artillery Support.**

It was too late to call off the patrol or turn the artillery support over to any other regiment. It was going to be nip and tuck as to whether or not we were going to get by the starting point on time. Orders were given to prepare to move and a dispatch rider was sent back to the wagon lines to warn Q.M. and Battery Captains and also to send up gun tractors as soon as it was dark.

Just how everything was packed and loaded remains a mystery as we had over four hundred rounds per gun dumped on position. I must admit that the Indians, who are notoriously fond of artillery fire, were completely satisfied with the number of rounds that we fired in their support. The patrol came back just before midnight with the information that they had gone out for, plus a few trophies the Gurkus had brought back for their own personal benefit. The F.O.O. reported in by wireless and the Adjutant gave the cease firing order a few minutes later. Guns had to be winched out of the gun pits and through the mud on to the road before they could be limbered up. Somehow or other the column passed the starting point on time. Most everyone except drivers, dispatch riders and the leading officers huddled upon the backs of trucks trying to get what rest they could.

We travelled all that day and bivouaced late that evening alongside the road about half-way across Italy. Recce. parties started off at first light the following morning, leaving the main body to follow on. Shortly after lunch I reported to H.Q. 13th Corps and received orders to go into action that night in support of the 6th New Zealand Division who were then covering a portion of the Cassino line. The Recce. parties immediately started preparations for new positions and sent back guides for the guns to come into action. The following morning the guns were busy firing on enemy positions. Most of the men had been without adequate sleep for nearly seventy-two hours but no rest was permitted until slit trenches and gun pits had been completed and were fit for use.

### **Large Number of Casualties.**

A short time after this move the New Zealanders came out for a well-earned rest and to regroup. They had taken a terrific beating, both from Jerry and also from American precision bombers. Casualties had been extremely high.

There was no rest period for the Regiment and we were immediately placed under command of the 6th British Armoured Division and in support of the 2nd Para Brigade covering a section around San Angelo a few miles south of Cassino. This only lasted for a short time and then we were relieved by a British Regiment and in turn we relieved one of the Yeomanry Regiments who were in support of the Guards in Cassino itself.

Easter found us in fairly comfortable and dry positions just to the left of Mount Trocchio, and although we were stuck out in a bit of a salient about one thousand yards back from the Rapido river, the position was quite good. All movement during the daylight hours had to be restricted as we were under observation from our left rear and left flank. Patrols were uncomfortably active and it appeared that Jerry might be making preparations to attempt to straighten out his line.

Unusual interest was shown by our own gunners in the state of their small arms and weapon pits, and slit trenches kept getting deeper and deeper.

Artillery shelling, although not particularly heavy, was consistent and very accurate—mortars, nebelers and 88's being by far the worst. Some 150 and 170 m.m. came over but caused very little damage as the percentage of duds was very high. However, much to our relief no serious attempt was launched and it became more and more apparent that our own forces were preparing for something out of the ordinary.

### **Preparing for Attack.**

Dumps of bridging material, assault boats, ammunition and other supplies were piling up along the roads leading from railheads. Everything that would have any bearing as far as supplies were concerned were being dumped in sufficient quantities to take care of any needs. Camouflage was most carefully carried out to conceal the dumps and observation. Recce. parties from other artillery regiments arrived and gun pits were being dug wherever a suitable spot could be found, all work being done at night and no movement permitted during daylight hours.

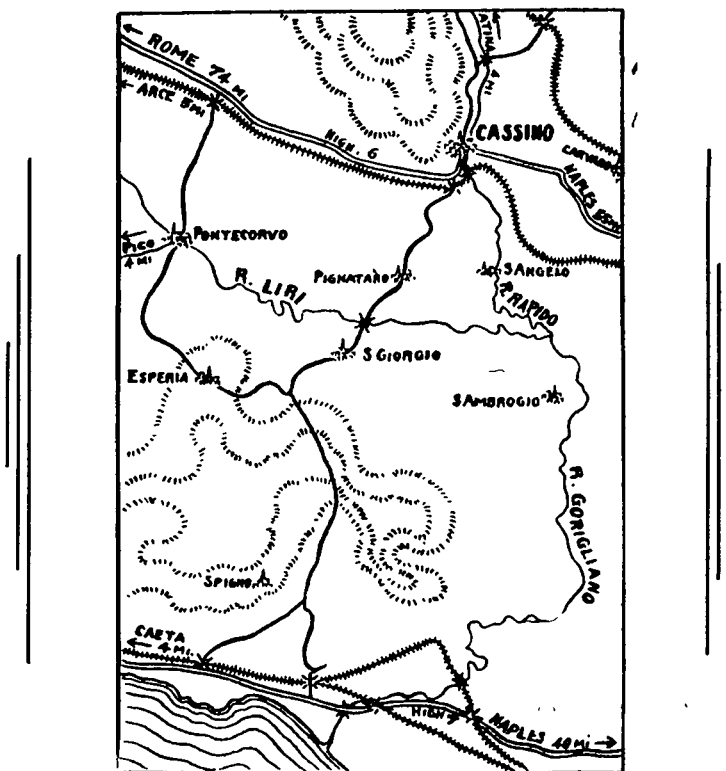
There was considerable reshuffling of troops from one front to another. This reshuffling foxed us, and I am quite satisfied that it also foxed the Germans.

The 6th British Armoured Division were withdrawn and the 8th Indian Division took over from them. We came under command of the C.R.A. 8th Indian Division.

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Canadian tanks of the 1st Canadian Armoured Tank Brigade were carrying out night exercises, river crossings, etc. As these were completed the troops moved forward to concentration areas.

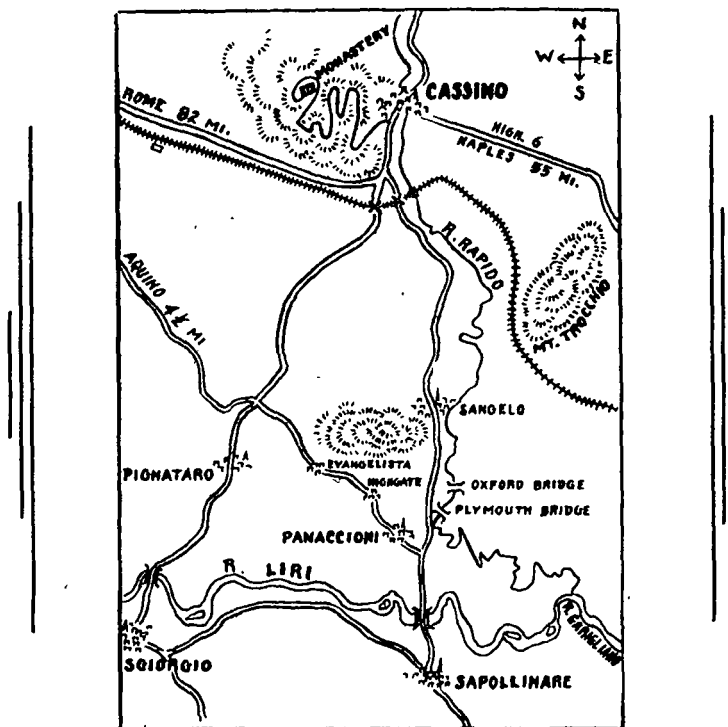
Speculations and rumours were rife and considerable discussion was carried out—everyone, of course, claiming that he had the true story. It was a peculiar fact though that no two stories seemed to jibe and it was not until April or early May that a more or less accurate picture could be obtained.



The broad plan was as follows: 13th British Corps, including amongst others, the 78th Infantry Division, 4th British Division and the 8th Indian Division with the 1st Canadian Armoured Tank Brigade supporting the 8th Indians were to advance and establish bridgeheads over the Gari and Rapido rivers, a regiment of tanks being with each infantry brigade of the Indians. Polish Divisions on the right were to pass behind Monti Cassino and capture two heights overlooking Highway 6 and then take the Benedictine Monastery on Monastery Hill. French Forces on the extreme left, consisting of British, French and French Colonials, were to protect the left flank of the 8th Indian Division.

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All available artillery was to be used in providing support of the infantry and tanks. This support was to consist of an initial 45-minute counter battery programme on all known positions followed by a four-hour barrage and concentration on strong points and possible assembly areas.



### Bridges for Tanks and Infantry.

The sappers were to establish and maintain bridges over the river to permit crossing by the tanks and infantry reinforcements and supplies. It was impossible for the tanks to ford these rivers.

Preparations were now speeded up and artillery regiments moved into their prepared positions but remained silent so as not to give away their presence. Careful night reconnoissance was carried out by all concerned and all likely approaches and crossings carefully studied. These reconnoissance were hampered considerably by the large number of mines placed on the river banks by both enemy and allied forces.

The tank regiments, after completing their exercises, moved up to positions close to the river on the nights of May 9-10, 10-11. Camouflage was carefully carried out and it must be concluded that it was effective as the area was only subjected to normal shelling.

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About thirty-six hours before zero hour gun programmes were issued down to troop commanders and all technical preparations were completed, except for adding the latest meteor report. Ammunition was dumped, charges were sorted and everything that could be done was all set for 2300 hours on the night of May 11th. Seven hundred and ninety-six guns of all calibres, exclusive of anti-tank and L.A.A., were concentrated on this front and it is reputed to be the largest concentration employed up to that time.

Sharp on time the guns opened up and looking back over our own positions from an O.P. on Mount Trocchio the whole area appeared to be alive with guns. The muzzle flashes were sufficient to light up the intervening ground and troops and tanks were seen moving forward.

### **Infantry Crosses at Four Points.**

Under cover of the barrage the infantry moved up and were successful in crossing at four points but were then pinned down by heavy mortar and machine-gun fire. Every effort was made by the sappers to put across Bailey bridges but their efforts were only a partial success. Some tanks managed to get across and relieve the hard-pressed infantry. Unfortunately one of the two bridges that had been put over had to be abandoned and it was not until 0830 hours that the third bridge was complete, and then only after a considerable number of casualties and under heavy small arm fire.

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Due to early morning mist and smoke the whole Liri Valley was obscured. This caused some confusion and the general situation was most uncertain. Conflicting reports kept coming in and it was extremely difficult to follow the course of battle. Occasionally there would be a break in the smoke and mist and some good shooting was being done by the F.O.O.'s with the forward infantry and tanks.

On the right the Poles managed to get around behind Monti Cassino and after stubborn resistance were able to occupy two heights of land, but were unable to proceed against the Monastery as scheduled due to casualties and heavy counter-attacks on the part of the Germans. In Cassino village the situation remained relatively quiet, although some local activity was apparent. On the left of Cassino (the right flank of the attack) the advance folded up and the infantry had to take cover.

On the 8th Indian sector the advance was continuing slowly against heavy opposition. Many of the tanks that got over during the day were bogged down in the soft ground and couldn't move.

### **Magnificent Job by Engineers.**

The engineers did a magnificent job and although one or other of the bridges were almost continuously out of action they managed to keep them working.

Later in the day more of the tanks managed to get across and although unable to contact their own infantry brigade due to the confusion and visibility they showed great initiative and proceeded on their own against very strong opposition. This relieved the hard-pressed infantry and there is no doubt that the tank attack shook the Germans and enabled one of the Indian infantry brigades to firmly consolidate their positions over the river.

Visibility improved and by late afternoon it was apparent that unless something unforeseen happened the bridgeheads could be maintained. Much hard fighting still lay in store for the troops and it required four days of vicious battle before the way was clear and a firm base established for the drive against the Hitler line by 1st Canadian Corps who passed through the 13th Corps.

December 7th, 1944.

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## Postwar Treatment of Germany

(Address delivered by MR. GILBERT HARDING, of Toronto, B.B.C. representative in Canada, before members of the Alberta Military Institute at a meeting held in the Garrison Officers' Mess in the Armouries, Calgary).

I N addressing you this evening, the only claim I have to put forward is that of presumption. I want to talk to you about Germany, and one thing that helps is that from 1924 until 1939 I was lucky enough to be able to go to Germany every year, and, being able to speak German, was able to see and hear what was going on. There is a certain presumption in speaking to people who have fought in the last war, and in this I do not wish to presume, and I may say that up to this time I have not committed the error of trying to tell Canadians their business.

There is a duty which we have all got, and I hope to be able to define it. What has happened in the past, and what could easily happen in the future, is of vital concern to all of us, and it is of this kind of thing I wish to speak. I wish to draw your attention, in other words, to a duty which we all share.

"What is going to happen to Germany after the War?" Dorothy Thompson, Walter Lippman and many cranks in United States claim that what the German people really want and need is vitamins, and that after the disposal of a few Nazi leaders they see many opportunities for improving the lot of the Germans, as fellowmen. What is going to happen to Germany after the war, and also what is going to happen to the rest of the world? What measures are planned and carried out are plainly things which must claim our interest. What do we want, after the war? I should have thought that the simple answer is that we do not want to have another war, and I am perfectly convinced that there will be another and that the chance of there being another is not reasonably distant.



*Mr. Gilbert Harding*

### **Must Not Forget the Horrors of War.**

There are signs today of a most unreasonably "soft" attitude towards Germany, which I believe is a very bad thing, and I must say, what I believe to be the truth, is that the Germans are already putting out that the consequences shall be escaped by them. There have been two wars in the lifetime of most of us, and most certainly we cannot, individually, have anything but a feeling of admiration for the men who

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are fighting it for us. Canada is not fighting this war over the old ground for the second time for nothing. Canadians have crossed the sea to fight. Why? Simply because of Canada's integrity and of new acts of aggression and by the same nation. The time is not too far off when we shall have beaten the Germans, and there will be the usual joy and victory parades. I hope that this time we shall not forget the bitter horrors of war; but there is a great danger of that. My earliest recollections are of men selling apples and hairpins with a G.S. button in their lapel.

It is an odd thing when you think of the way people act in general, for many of us have seen unemployment at its worst, with all its ills—I myself have seen people, almost in rags, standing in queues waiting to be given a small amount of the simplest kinds of food, and I have also seen them standing in line waiting to be examined physically—as to their eyesight, their chests and so on, clean and well-dressed, all so that they will be shot, I suppose. I think that there are all kinds of reasons why we should insist that there be no more wars. There is a great need of knowledge, interest and vigilance in foreign affairs.

Up to now we have been content, both as Britishers and Canadians, to leave the conduct of foreign affairs to a set of the selected and educated few who were the main influences in our Diplomatic Corps. In the British diplomatic service it was an impossible thing for a man to enter unless he had at least seven or eight thousand pounds a year. In the United States ambassadors have time and again been chosen from the very rich friends of the president. It is impossible, under present conditions, for a poor man to be an ambassador—simply impossible. The best way of illustrating the point is to mention the soldier in Whitehall being asked, "Do you know what side the War Office is on?" He answered, "I wish I knew, but I hope they are on our side".

### **Japanese Attitude Even Defended.**

Just think for a moment—in 1941, when Japan first opened its attack on China, the League of Nations was not very old. There was a piece of unparalleled aggression carried out right under the noses of the great powers of Europe! What happened. Nothing, except certain defense of the Japanese attitude and a considerable prosperity in the United States and Great Britain.

Consider in 1934, after Hitler had been in power a year. In the last war Germany invented submarine warfare on civilian shipping, and it was this form of warfare in which Germany was most interested. At sea, then Scapa Flow and under the brighteye of the Admiralty, the German fleet went down; they had determined that the British would not have them. But, under Hitler, in secret, remember that Bismarck, Gneisenau, Scharnhorst and Prince Eugen were constructed, to replace them.

In 1936 Italy invaded Abyssinia, under Marshal Bagdolio, with poison gas, bombings and murder of the most bloodthirsty type. Sanctions were applied. Did it have any effect? No. Not because one



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sanction on oil was not applied by Anglo-Iranian, but because America continued to provide every necessity for aggression the Italians wanted.

Then General Franco gave history cause to be written. There is not a more contemptible creature than Franco. There has been more credulity and more foolishness abroad as to what he stands for. You remember the policy of non-intervention. The great powers decided not to intervene, and his party (who were presumably rebels) became the Nationalists and then, in due course, the Government.

### **Germany Denounces Treaty.**

In 1936 Germany denounced the Treaty of Versailles and reoccupied the Rhine land, in direct defiance of the Rhineland general election and France. Nothing happened.

It seems to me there must have been a good many dreamers in the Belgian and French governments when Germany defied the 1918 treaty for the second time. Then the German army introduced conscription. In the meantime invaluable months were passing. It is a dreary story, but we will stop there.

Let us review, briefly, history since 1918. Many of you can remember what happened. You remember that the Germans asked for an armistice, and you will remember that the peace was signed less than a year later, in June or July, 1919. Germany at once began a most successful campaign, instilling, by this means, within Germany, the opinion that Germany had not lost the war. The reason why they were defeated was the revolution at home, and the Kaiser had to flee. Badly treated by the Allies, they were not allowed food in, because of the blockade.

In "Maclean's Magazine", Lord Vansittart, in exposing this paltry lie, pointed out that they were better off than we were. Thank God they are not escaping this time. We forgot, almost immediately, the atrocities in Belgium, also the way in which the Germans treated our prisoners. Who does not talk, almost affectionately, about "Jerry" and "Fritz". The Weimar Republic was the best government Germany had from 1918 to 1935, when Hitler was put in power by an overwhelming vote of the German Reichstag. To understand Naziism and Germans properly you have got to be a Hun. This was a form of government established only by Germany. Fascism is not as bad as Naziism.

### **Nazis Started Planning in 1933.**

Democracy is a catchword, and truth comes only from Nazis and Germans, they say. You have seen pictures of them. I have seen them in Nuremberg—Goebbels, Goering, Rosenbaum, Himmler, Hesse, Streicher—faces which revealed sadism, and much more than sadism dominated these characters. We, in our democratic way, my God, would never have looked at people like that. Quoting from Mein Kampf, "If you want to tell a big lie, then tell it often and in time you will believe it yourself". The Nazis, in 1933, set out quite clearly and plainly to prepare for this war.

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They set out to enslave the minds of the whole German people, and they succeeded, especially with the young people. I myself heard the Volksdeutscher, an organization equivalent to the Hitler youth, sing a "hymn" like this:

"We have given up the Christian life"  
For Christ was just a Jewish swine.  
As for his mother, what a shame,  
Cohen was the maiden's real name.

"I believe in Germany and Adolf Hitler its leader.  
I believe in the gods of Germany,  
In Seigfried and the gods of Germany.  
I believe in Adolf Hitler".

They villified the churches, making probably more headway against the Protestant churches than against the Roman Catholic church, which continued to stand out firmly against the Nazis. Nothing was too low, no form of corruption was too rotten for them to allege in this campaign. All in all, it was much the same dreary line that a certain Dr. Shields has delivered in addresses throughout Canada attacking the Roman Catholics and warning the Protestants to "be sure of their liberty", and so on. Germany even had invented for it a form of Nazi "marriage".

I may tell you that in 1938 I visited a German school in the town of Roedenburg. In this area the persecution of the Jews was very



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strong and from this school they had succeeded in turning out all the Jews. The Jews were expelled from the schools, but still a few, who were the children of mixed Jew and German parents—"half-Ayrans"—went on. At this school it was the habit to distribute milk or soup, and the children brought their own cups. In the class I refer to none of the children would be beyond eight years—a mixed class of boys and girls, from five to eight years old.

These children of a Jewish mother or father were not allowed to fall out of the class. They had to follow the others, went by with empty cup, with neither milk or soup, saying, "Heil Hitler—Danke—I am sorry, I am a Jew". Mind you, these were children of less than eight years of age.

### **Superiority of Germany?**

Here was an ordinary looking German girl, a school teacher, just like my own sister, giving little evidence of belonging to the murderous Nazi type, but of ordinary appearance. When I asked her, "Is that not a very cruel thing to do to these little children?" she said, "We must let the children know that they are under the rule of the Germans and that in everything we are superior".

I can multiply instances, many of them authentic and uncoloured by hearsay, of the Germans evidencing this sadism.

Then came the war. Do you remember at the beginning of the war how the Germans were the most successful propagandists? They saw the whole of England worried—in fact the government itself was worried. Lord Haw-Haw was going on about the terror and might of Germany. Fortunately, they did not succeed, but at that time they had had six years of training and education in the most subtly successful forms of lying.

Then the Maginot line—the French are not very intelligent, judging by their troops, and anything unpleasant told brought them discouragement, and at this time they were not very happy. They had dark forebodings and sat on their backsides and did nothing. The Germans were clever enough to have their men saying, "You are sitting there, doing nothing", and then occasionally they would get authentic information that the British soldiers were sleeping with their wives and sweethearts. This was a very clever trick of the Germans.

### **Will Fight to the End.**

They very soon showed that they do not change. When first we heard of the atrocities in Poland—their treatment of the Jews—we got so used to this kind of thing it ceased to register, and now they are fighting, and fighting to the very end, and I do not propose to point to the news today. I am quite sure that they will fight on and on and on and on unless, of course, they are successful in their efforts to force a negotiated peace.

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Let me read a few lines from the "Winnipeg Free Press":

"We on this continent, who have never lived in Germany, will never be able to appreciate fully the feelings of those who have. When peace comes again, the Germans will cry out in injured innocence and they will expect that same impartial fairness in our treatment of them. We will know and be told of the 'ordeals' through which the German people have come. It will repay us to remember this time that it must be much less easy on Germany. No matter what happens, the Germans must be taxed with what they have done".

When the war goes on to an end, let us be constructive. Only the use of an armistice is possible to teach the Germans. They must be brought to realize that war can be quite a long affair. Our armies must be in charge until the Germans have learned to be good. In Europe there should be a period long enough to get some of the poison out of their system. Consider the Hitler Jugend, under the like of Hermann Goering's domination—they offer little possibilities, for now Naziism has been rife for from seven to ten years—they have had this period to become steeped in this absolute confusion that has got to be taken out of their systems. Certain sections have been told that they have to see what can be saved from the wreck; to devise negotiation of the peace and organization for the next war. Germany figures this way—"We may have lost two wars in order to win the third".

There is one danger which we must avoid—sloppy ideas which sentimentalists put forward. Morgenthau wants to reduce them to the level of an agricultural nation. There must be some supervision—they did not pay more than one twenty-fifth of the reparations which they agreed to pay. It was not long before they were falling down on them. Real objects of punishment are protection of society and the reformation of the culprit, and punishment should fit the crime.

### **Trying for Negotiated Peace.**

Are the Germans worse than other people? When an epidemic of whooping cough or measles breaks out you take steps to remove the infection, and there is a great danger that they will attempt to influence enough people, not only in Germany but elsewhere, to think that the Nazis are decent people and to prepare the ground towards this negotiated peace in which we will say, "We can make peace with these people". Marshal Bagdolio, with his mustard gas, is nothing more than a dirty, murderous, unprincipled thug and it is a pity that the like of he and Darnell should be considered as our friends. We should find this kind of thing very difficult to swallow. Noel Coward is said to have asked a man in a military hospital what the "Jerries" are like—the man, a Cockney, replied, "Well, the mosquitoes are bad".

Let us be convinced that Germany is a criminal nation, but in England you will find a man convicted of murder—a real beast—and you will find thousands of people who will protest. Millions will petition for mercy, but it is essential that when a man is guilty to

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remove from him the chance to do further damage, if they won't properly respect the rights of other men.

We will, no less, I hope, agree then that the first thing necessary is a long, long armistice, during which we shall see and observe the criminal who is in the dock. Then I hope we can agree that enough army, navy and airforce can be supplied to allow us to insist that the only uniforms which will be worn in Germany will be those of the railwaymen and policemen, and not be armed, in any way, for at least fifty years, for there will be no need for anyone to be armed. Germany must be decentralized. Prussia has always leaned towards war—always. I know it is impossible to induct a whole people—we do not want to add another tragedy to those that have gone before.

Let us be quite outspoken. German officers at large are thugs and sadists, and as for the Prussians, remember that there is no doubt that all Prussian influence must be destroyed. Two generations of Germans have been lost—Hitler has them, but we can see that if we control German wealth to such an extent that they will be able to return to the paths of peace and the ways of liberty and forsake the paths of war and the ways of death.

### **Careless in Electing Members.**

When we elect Members of Parliament to Ottawa we are, a good many of us, careless and indifferent. We hire politicians who bleed us or split on us—we do not object as much as we should. We are interested in many problems—central bank, international trade, production control. If we elect people who stand before us as candidates, we should see that they are informed about foreign affairs in such an effectual way and have the co-operation of the British or Foreign Office in Great Britain in order to keep watch and vigilance as to who are our friends, that immediately when war breaks out, no matter what happens, we may be all right. They are bound to make money because their business is making money. Let them be carefully controlled, even though we have no loans for secret transactions. Let there be no selling of essential materials. Let us insist that they are sufficiently well informed that everything is carefully supervised in war time. We can do it, and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board at Ottawa can keep prices down and prevent inflation. Why cannot we see that history does not repeat itself—Germany this time shall be carefully watched.

After the war we shall go ahead with rehabilitation. After the first few years there is the danger that we will forget. There are so many other things. As the bankers and industrialists insist, trade must go on—orders and commerce must be free. What is the use of it all, if we forget? You see people wearing poppies—there are services at the Cenotaph—I know that the British attitude each year has become more casual. I remember an uncle of mine gave me a smack on the ear because as I walked out of Whitehall I did not take my hat off at the Cenotaph. This is where I may appear too British. If we are to do

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anything at all, we must do it by exercising our votes and profiting on your experience with Ottawa. We must say, "What are you going to do about foreign affairs?" We must see that promises become results. I am going to close on a more serious note. The danger is growing already. Before the war too many thought: "After all, there are some nice Germans, we are a bit hard on them. The Russians are nothing to write home about". There are no nice Germans—there may be ten or twelve years from now. I implore you to believe that unless each and every one of us vote for people, insisting they are committed to a course of conduct, I am quite sure that we shall be untrue to the dead.

December 18th, 1944.

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become the largest and  
best in Western Canada.  
~~~~~

**ASHDOWN'S**

110 - 8th Ave. W., Calgary

## Canadians in Shackles

By. T. H. PINDER

(This is a reproduction from "The Legionary", national magazine of the Canadian Legion).

### A Dieppe Veteran's Story.

A lot of people seem interested in the shackling of the Canadian soldiers taken prisoners by the Germans at Dieppe in August, 1942. Since I was one of the Canadians concerned, I can perhaps give a few details which may not be known in this country.

The dramatic story of how Canadian prisoners-of-war, together with British comrades-in-arms, were kept in shackles by the Germans, is told in detail here by one who knows all about it from personal experience.

The writer, ex-Trooper T. H. Pinder of the 14th Tank Regiment of Calgary, Alberta, fought and was taken prisoner in the Battle of Dieppe, August 19th, 1942. Repatriated to Canada on account of illness contracted in German prison camps, he is still in hospital in Calgary suffering from the effects of his involuntary visit to Naziland.

We arrived at Stalag VIII B at the beginning of September and got a pleasant surprise on finding how well organized the Red Cross was. We had known before that the Red Cross did help prisoners-of-war but never realized how much till we were issued with our first food parcel and cigarettes the day we arrived and were told that it was the regular weekly issue. We also received a certain amount of clothing to replace or add to what we had been captured in. which, in the case of fellows who had had to swim a fair distance, was brief, to say the least.

One of our sergeants saw a picture of himself in a German illustrated paper, marching through Dieppe clad in an undervest and tin hat and didn't feel the least bit flattered. Good thing it was a warm day!

### First Warning.

After a few days we were all registered, finger-printed and had our rogues' gallery pictures taken, with our numbers on a board round our necks. Then the Jerries started sending out small working parties. On the morning of October 8, at roll-call, the sergeant-major began calling names and numbers for a party of five hundred which was supposed to go out very soon. He hadn't called out more than ten names when a German officer, accompanied by the usual cloud of smaller fry, like a comet and its tail, strode into the compound and gave us the order to pack all our kit and be back on parade in twenty minutes. We hadn't much personal kit, but this meant collecting our blankets, bedboards (unless they'd been burned brewing tea), palliasse (ditto), and the assortment of tin cans which you collect for various purposes (and of which you get a large number in a short time), in addition to our ordinary kit. By the time we had brought all this out, each pile usually topped off with a home-made tin stove and a pair of wooden shoes

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(unless they'd been burned too!), the parade ground looked like a cross between a salvage dump and a gypsy camp.

We had decided that this must be just another bright idea to annoy us, so we weren't particularly worried when we were ordered to march up to the reception compound (nice name), the one we had been in when we arrived in the camp and out of which we had only been moved about two weeks previously. So we picked up our worldly goods and moved, staggered or straggled (anything but marched) up the road a short way to the compound, shedding boards, dixies, clogs and cuss-words as we went. No one dropped any food, though!

After grabbing beds in the four long huts—two barrack-rooms per hut—we were ordered outside again and formed into two long columns five abreast and about six hundred in each column. We began to wonder what was afoot when we noticed three guards and two machine guns to each sentry-box and about half the German army around the fence, armed to the teeth with light and heavy machine guns, grenades, and rifles with fixed bayonets. We were pretty quiet then, remembering the various mass murder stories we'd heard about the Nazis, and it didn't make us feel very happy.

### **Tied With Cord.**

There was about a fifteen or twenty-minute wait, and then along came several German officers who, after the usual heel-clickings and salutes (military, not Nazi), took up positions in front of us. A further wait, and then there appeared another officer with enough braid and medals to be a stand-in for Goering himself. More heel clickings and salutes, and he turned to us and, after giving us a good glaring-over, proceeded to read us a long proclamation. Words such as "pirates" were fairly frequent, and after a while we began to gather that, owing to an incident that had occurred on the Dieppe raid and another on a small Commando raid a short time later, we were to have our hands tied together "until the British Government should apologize to the Reich," or words to that effect. Well, we figured that was better than being shot, so we stepped forward in groups of twenty, held out our hands, wrists crossed, and were tied, to add insult to injury, with cord with which British Red Cross parcels are bound for shipment. Then we were herded back into the huts and four guards with tommy guns placed over each barrack-room.

Soon we found out just how awkward it was going to be when we started trying to get some food together for supper. We finally discovered that the only practical method of peeling our potatoes, which were issued cooked with their jackets on, was a two-man team, one with the spud and one with the knife, and if the knife was sharp it made things more interesting for the holder of the spud.

The first evening everyone got together and started a sing-song. This annoyed the Jerries a lot as we were supposed to take the whole business in a serious spirit. The Jerry sergeant finally got tired of



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shouting and blowing his whistle to stop us each time he made his rounds, so he finally complained to an officer who soon came in with another proclamation. It was a short one this time, to the effect that there should be "no laughing, whistling, singing, or playing of musical instruments among the prisoners." And he didn't even see anything funny in that!

Getting into the top bunk of a three-tier bed as quite a feat, too. These beds were in groups of twelve, a double row of two beds per row and three tiers high. The frames were of wood, with runners to rest the ends of the bedboards on crosswise, and if the boards were a bit shorter than the distance between the sides of the bed the result was a first-class booby trap. It was quite a common thing to wake up to the sound of falling boards followed by groans and curses from both the "fallen through" and the "fallen on"; that is, if the "fallen on" had any breath left and didn't have a board halfway down his throat! If they both went through to the bottom storey the poor bloke down there didn't usually see the joke, and there'd be a three-cornered free-for-all in the aisle.

### **No Apology.**

We managed to get settled down for the night with our hands still tied and all the lights on in case we should try to gang up on the guards. About 2.30 a.m. an officer came in with yet another proclamation: "Although the British Government has not yet shown any sign of apologizing, through the generosity of the German Government you will now be untied until eight o'clock tomorrow morning. You will also be untied for one hour at midday and at nine o'clock for the night." This was beginning to look a bit too permanent to suit us.

So they tied us again at eight, untied us for soup, tied up again after and untied us again at night. It took quite a section of the army to do all this, and soon most of the guards were suffering from sore fingers which helped make up for our sore wrists. We used to pull the knots tight and fray the cords out so it wouldn't be too easy for them. One day they found they were forty cords short and they threatened us with being stood on parade for the day if the missing ones weren't forthcoming. Not liking the idea of this, we handed in any bits of cord we had been using to make up the difference. Do you think that made them happy? Not much. They found they had too many cords and immediately decided they were short some prisoners, so we had an extra roll-call to straighten that out.

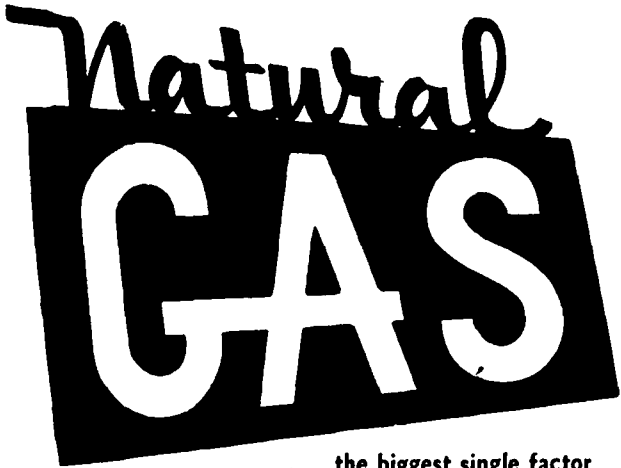
### **Germans Chained Too.**

This continued until the beginning of December. They had tied up the Air Force boys in the next compound a couple of weeks after us because the British Government, instead of apologizing, had had the impertinence to order Jerry prisoners to be tied. Every second Saturday our guards had leave, so we were left free for the afternoon—a welcome change, especially when the weather became colder. Punish-

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ment for being caught with the ropes off was two or three hours with hands tied behind your back, and nose and toes against the wall; they didn't provide a dunce cap, however. Some of the guards weren't too bad and didn't bother us much, but a few were very officious and spent all their time trying to catch us out. One little fellow, who we decided was a bit of a mental case anyway, announced about three o'clock one afternoon that all those with loose ropes had better come to him and be retied, otherwise he would run them in. Anything to fill in time, so those whose ropes were tight, loosened them anyway and got in line, and as they were retied went to the end of the line and loosened them once more! He was still busy tying at five o'clock when the whistle blew for roll-call. I think he was allergic to rope after that—he didn't trouble us any more at any rate.

On December 5 they got a shipment of handcuffs for us. We found these were a great improvement as there was about fifteen inches of slack chain and we could get our hands in our pockets—very unsoldierly but more comfortable. No sooner had they the handcuffs on us than everyone discovered how to open them. It was the simplest thing in the world as they were held by a spring-catch, and one flip with a nail file or a bully-beef key did the trick. However, the Jerries didn't catch on to this for a while, and one of the guards got quite a surprise one day when he caught one of the boys having a shower dressed in nothing but his handcuffs, which were on properly



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and apparently untouched. It also worried them when two fellows would go up to be unfastened with their chains locked together, and when we turned up at roll-call wearing our greatcoats which we certainly hadn't worn all day.

The proper way of opening the chains was with a ponderous key that threaded into the lock and released the spring, the whole process taking a couple of minutes per man. There being four guards working on each barrack of one hundred and eighty men, it was a long job. We found it too long, so, while some were lined up having them removed the orthodox way, the remainder would take off their own and drop them in the box behind the guards, thus speeding the job considerably. They soon came around to our way of thinking and just issued the chains, letting us put them on in the morning and take them off at night. If any of the guards got nasty, we used to line up and let them put them on and take them off us. This delayed them quite a bit and they didn't like it at all after the other method, so we kept them fairly well in order.

At Christmas they gave us quite a treat—they left us unchained for the day and left all the compounds unlocked so we could wander around the camp, which was a pleasant change. They also gave us a double ration of potatoes (cutting out the soup ration) and a double ration of bread which, however, had to do for two days. We had a wonderful feed, though, out of the special Christmas parcel which was sent by the British Red Cross—the first full parcel we'd had since the tying had started, as the Jerries had clamped down on the Red Cross issue at the same time. The barracks looked very festive. Everyone had been working on decoration for some time, making them out of tin cans, cardboard, labels, cigarette packets—anything, in fact, with a bit of colour to it. What with concerts and sing-songs, we really had a surprisingly good Christmas.

### **Slack Guards.**

After Christmas things went on much the same, with periodical punishment parades for shortage of chains, unclean barracks, or just plain "orneriness" on the part of the Jerries, but since the guards looked just as cold as we did after standing outside for two or three hours, that had its compensations, too. As time went on they became more and more slack. There were fewer guards over us. By March they began to allow us out of the compound and around in the camp. That was a bit confusing at first because one day they would let you out only if you had chains on and the next only with them off. Then they stopped bothering about that, too.

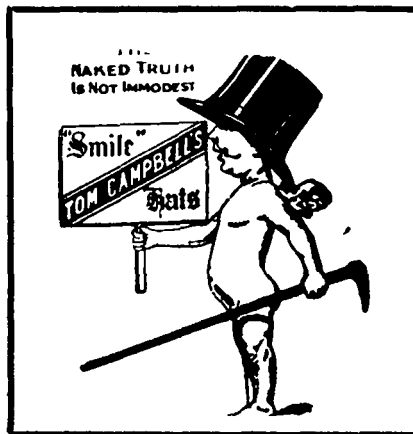
All of a sudden they began making a fuss over sabotage, as they called it. There was a steady stream of broken or out-of-order handcuffs being turned in and they got tired of replacing them. Of course, none of the boys knew anything about it, but we each had to make out a tin disc with our number on it and wire it to the chain, and if that chain were broken, the luckless owner would find himself in a civilian

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jail for two or three years for "sabotage." They weren't joking, so from then on we cherished our chains, greased the hinges with a bit of margarine, and made it as easy as possible to open them, finally leaving them off altogether except when the guard commander came around to check up. One day he came around and stood watching four fellows playing poker with their hands free. No doubt he expected them to show sign of getting into their cuffs. Not a move. After five minutes or so, by which time the poker players had even forgotten he was there, he suddenly exploded, and announced through an interpreter that he didn't mind us not wearing our chains when he wasn't around, but he did expect us to put them on when he came as it looked better if there were any officers around! He finally got worn down to such an extent that when one day someone pinched the valve out of the rear tire of his bicycle, he didn't even call a parade but put on a feeble fireworks display—not at all up to his usual standard—and wheeled away his bicycle, looking disgusted and muttering to himself.

At last the whole affair became a complete farce. The chains were brought into the barracks in the morning, left there for the day, and counted and taken away at night, while one disconsolate guard used to trail through the eight barrack-rooms. Some of the more enterprising ones worked up a fair business trading bread, eggs or sarscharine tablets for cigarettes, chocolate, soap, etc., of which we had far more than they ever did, but even that fell through when a stall was opened by the fellows in each compound where everything from coal to a packet of tea had a standard price in cigarettes.

Finally either our camp commandant got fed up, or the R.A.F. blew the dust off the original order in Berlin and brought it to light again. Whatever happened, the chains were finally removed for the last time in November, 1943, to the relief of both sides, and were not seen again.



## Vimy Anniversary Dinner, 1944

(From the Calgary Herald, April 12th, 1944)

THE war must be won this year or it will be extended over a long period of suffering, declared Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding the Pacific Command, when he addressed the Alberta Military Institute dinner Tuesday evening to commemorate the victory of the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge in 1917.

He pleaded with members of the Institute to urge more manpower to support Canada's overseas army.

"We are to storm the fortress of Europe. Our leaders have told us that this year we must be on the road to victory. But we are living in a fool's paradise if we think that storming the fortress of Europe will be any less costly than it was to the 'Gallant Forlorn' of the Peninsula wars," declared General Pearkes.

"We must steel our hearts to accept terrible casualties."

### **"Not Good Enough".**

"Fifty per cent acceptance of duty is not enough. It must be 100 per cent, and 100 per cent means that every young man of our country must join his comrades overseas.

"The United Nations, the British Empire, Canada, Alberta, must be ready to make an all-out effort, must be prepared to make sacrifices, must be prepared for heavy casualties.

"There are many young men who are not volunteering to go overseas.

"I have pleaded before in Calgary for more men in the armed forces, but never have I pleaded more seriously than I do today for more wholehearted manpower support for the men who must storm the fortress of Europe. Victory hangs on the ability of Canada to adequately support the troops she now has ready in England—I must ask that every young man join the army to give that support."

### **"Hour of Need".**

General Pearkes said the men taking part in the conquest of Kiska had not completed their task as soldiers and were not yet "entitled to return to their homes on farms and elsewhere."

"Everything now hangs on the ability of Canada to support the men now waiting to storm the citadel of Naziism. I appeal to all veterans of the last war to support the armed services and serve their country in its hour of need.

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"There are many men who are not willing to go overseas. They are told that because they have taken Kiska (without firing a shot) that they have done their stuff and that they should wait for others to do the fighting; that they are now entitled to take farm leave or go mining.

"This year, now or never, or only after a long period of suffering, is victory to be ours.

### **All-Out Effort.**

"We must make an all-out effort this year and accept the casualties which are incurred if victory is to be ours this year. I urge you one and all to do everything to persuade the young men of the country that it is their duty to join their comrades overseas," concluded General Pearkes.

Speaking on "The Last Time I Saw Vimy," General Pearkes recalled the capture of Vimy in 1917 and of seeing the Vimy Memorial in 1940 "when Paris was still gay and not suffering from blackouts."

He said the Allies were putting up earthworks along the Belgian border to complete the Maginot Line and tank traps were being constructed along the border. Belgian miners were crossing the "line" daily and there was no thought of espionage or sabotage.

No man's land was from 10 to 15 miles wide and covered by patrols, but the British army did not expect Germany to invade Belgium. "Such were the days of the 'phony war' as it was called when I went back to Vimy Ridge," said the general.

### **Physical Rehabilitation.**

In a short address, Brig. F. M. Harvey, V.C., M.C., Officer Commanding M.D. 13, stressed the importance of military training and said any rehabilitation scheme should include plans for the rehabilitation of the physical and mental development of the nation.

Seated at the head table were Major A. J. Davis, E.D., Major Rev. Canon H. W. Morgan, Lt.-Col. F. Shouldice, M.C., Lt.-Col. D. G. L. Cunnington, M.C., V.D., Col. E. R. Knight, V.D., Maj.-Gen. H. N. Ganong, C.B.E., V.D., General Officer Commanding 8th Canadian Division; Lt.-Cmdr. Dattels, Officer Commanding H.M.C.S. Tecumseh; Capt. Andrew Davison, Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C.; C. W. Allen, U.S. Consul; Lt. the Hon. C. E. Gerhart, M.L.A.; Lt.-Col. L. A. Cavanaugh, Lt.-Col. W. K. Jull, M.C., V.D., Capt. R. C. Carlyle and Capt. L. G. McCarthy.

### **Toast to King.**

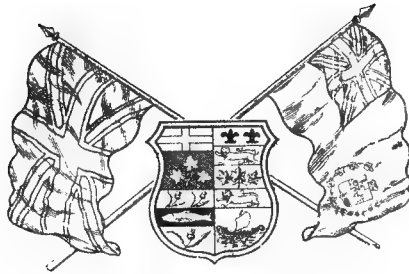
Grace was said by Major Morgan; the toast to the King was given by Lt. Collinge, followed by a silence for Fallen Comrades; Capt. D. Carswell gave a recitation; Lt. Collinge proposed the toast to "His Majesty's Forces", to which Brig. Harvey responded; Lt.-Col. Shoul-

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dice proposed the toast to "Our Guests", to which Lt. Gerhart responded; Glynndwr Jones sang solos.

Lieut. Thomas W. Collinge, K.C., President of the Institute, was in the chair. More than two hundred attended the gathering, including representatives of local military units, former soldiers and civilians.

A Guard of Honour supplied by Alberta Military Institute Cadets was inspected by General Pearkes before the banquet. He commented on the efficient and soldierly appearance of the boys and said they were a fine credit to the organization which sponsored them and the men who had trained them.



## The Annual General Meeting, 1944

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**T**HE annual meeting of the Institute was held in the Garrison Officers Mess on Monday, February 5th, 1945. The meeting was opened at 8.30 o'clock with Capt. R. C. Carlile presiding. The following were in attendance:

Lt.-Col. J. Begg, Lt.-Col. F. L. Shoudice, Lt.-Col. H. E. Wright, Lt.-Col. E. R. Selby, Major L. G. McCarthy, Major L. H. Chapman, Major H. W. Francis, Major A. J. Davis, Major N. S. Macdonald, Capt. R. C. Carlile, Capt. A. J. Toole, Capt. H. S. Hinton, Capt. G. A. McTaggart, Capt. C. W. Woolley, Capt. W. St. J. Miller, Capt. F. B. Connor, Capt. T. W. Beaver, Capt. H. Doucette, Lt. M. H. Staples.

### Death of Major-General Griesbach

The chairman announced the death of Major-General Griesbach and advised that a floral wreath was sent to the funeral by the Institute.

### Minutes

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held on Friday, January 28th, 1944, having been printed in the Annual Journal of 1943, it was moved by Lt.-Col. J. Begg, seconded by Major L. H. Chapman, that the minutes be taken as read.—Carried.

### Report of Acting President

Capt. R. C. Carlile read the report of the activities of the Institute during 1944 (see page 6).

It was moved by Lt.-Col. F. L. Shoudice, seconded by Capt. A. J. Toole, that the report be received and adopted.—Carried.

### Librarian

Lt. M. H. Robinson gave report of the Librarian for year 1944. (See page 16).

It was moved by Major L. G. McCarthy, seconded by Capt. C. W. Woolley, that the report be received and adopted and grant of \$25.00 be authorized for 1945.—Carried.

### Auditor's Report

Report of the Auditor, Lieut. F. J. Butler, was read certifying that all the books, accounts and securities of the Institute for the year 1944 had been examined and found to be correct. (See page 10).

Moved by Capt. St. J. Miller, seconded by Major N. S. Macdonald, that report be received and adopted.—Carried.

### Financial Statement

The Treasurer stated that copies of Financial Statement had been mailed to all members. He gave details of the bonds, etc. (See page 11). statement be received and adopted.—Carried.

Moved by Major L. G. McCarthy, seconded by Lt.-Col. J. Begg, that



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### A. M. I. Cadets

Major L. H. Chapman read report of the A.M.I. Cadet Committee. (See page 17).

It was moved by Major L. H. Chapman, seconded by Major L. G. McCarthy that report be received and adopted, the Directors authorized to spend up to \$250.00 during 1945, also that Liability Insurance be carried during 1945.—Carried.

### Clerical Work

The Directors recommend that a sum not exceeding \$150.00 be authorized for clerical assistance to the Treasurer and that a sum not exceeding \$150.00 be authorized for the Secretary during 1945.

It was moved by Lt.-Col. H. E. Wright, seconded by Capt. A. J. Toole, that amounts be authorized.—Carried.

### Annual Journal - 1945

The Directors recommend that the Annual Journal containing the activities and lectures during 1945 be published.

It was moved by Capt. C. W. Wooley, seconded by Capt. H. S. Hinton, that recommendation be adopted.—Carried.

### Vimy Dinner - 1945

The Directors recommend that the Vimy Dinner be held on or about April 9th, 1945.

It was moved by Lt.-Col. H. E. Wright, seconded by Lt.-Col. F. L. Shouldice, that recommendation be adopted.—Carried.

### Garrison Officers' Mess

It was moved by Capt. W. St. J. Miller, seconded by Capt. C. W. Woolley, that the Directors be empowered to make necessary arrangements with Garrison Officers' Mess for use of the Mess and supplying of refreshments during 1945.—Carried.

### Nomination of Officers - 1945

In accordance with Section VII of the Constitution and By-laws the following nominations were submitted:

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of November 8th, 1944, the Nominating Committee therein named submits herewith nominations for Officers and Directors for the year 1945.

It is recommended that the name of Lieut.-General J. C. Murchie, C.B.E., Chief of the General Staff in Canada, be added to the list of Patrons.

### Honorary President

Brigadier F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C., District Officer Commanding M.D. 13.

### Honorary Vice-Presidents

|                                             |                                               |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Lt.-Col. D. G. L. Cunningham, M.C.,<br>V.D. | Col. N. D. Dingle, E.D.                       |
| Lt. Hugh C. Farthing                        | Col. H. C. A. Hervey, V.D.                    |
| Col. E. R. Knight, V.D.                     | Lt.-Col. A. D. Cooper-Johnston, M.C.,<br>V.D. |
| Lt.-Col. D. H. Tomlinson, M.B.E., V.D.      | Lt.-Col. E. R. Selby, D.S.O., V.D.            |
| Lt.-Col. J. W. Littleton, M.C.              | Capt. N. A. Campbell                          |
| Lt.-Col. H. Pryde, E.D.                     | Capt. D. C. Sinclair                          |

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### Officers for 1945

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| President          | Capt. R. C. Carlile     |
| Vice-President     | Lt.-Col. Harold Wright  |
| Honorary Secretary | Major A. J. Davis, E.D. |
| Treasurer          | Major L. G. McCarthy    |

### Directors

|                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lt.-Col. John Begg, D.S.O., E.D. | Major J. M. Adams         |
| Lt.-Col. F. L. Shouldice, M.C.   | Major M. A. Elhssen, M.C. |
| Major H. W. Francis              | Capt. A. J. Toole, M.C.   |
|                                  | Sub-Lieut. Frank Tempest  |

### Honorary Chaplain

Major W. H. Morgan

### Librarian

Lt. M. H. Robinson

Owing to the death of Lt. T. W. Collinge the office of Immediate Past President is vacant.

All the gentlemen whose names are submitted for elective office for 1945 have signified their willingness to accept the responsibility, if the members of the Institute so desire.

On behalf of the Committee, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

D. C. SINCLAIR, Capt.

Capt. D. C. Sinclair was appointed as Immediate Past President owing to death of Lt. T. W. Collinge.

Moved by Capt. C. W. Wooley, seconded by Lieut. M. H. Sinclair, that report be received and approved—Carried.

### Election

There being no further nominations the above named were declared duly elected.

### President - 1945

Capt. R. C. Carlile, on taking the chair as President, said:

"I have been carrying on the duties of President since October due to the death of our late President, Lt. T. W. Collinge. I sincerely thank you for the honour of making me President for 1945 and giving me such an excellent executive to work with.

"As you have approved my Presidential address for Lieut. Collinge for 1944, it will be my first duty to place before the new directorate the recommendations of the old directors which were included in that address. Will every member, therefore, try and get all officers of the Navy, Army and Airforce returning from overseas to join the Institute."

### Vote of Thanks to Press

It was moved by Major A. J. Davis, seconded by Major L. G. McCarthy, that a vote of thanks be extended to the Albertan and Herald for their co-operation during the year.—Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

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